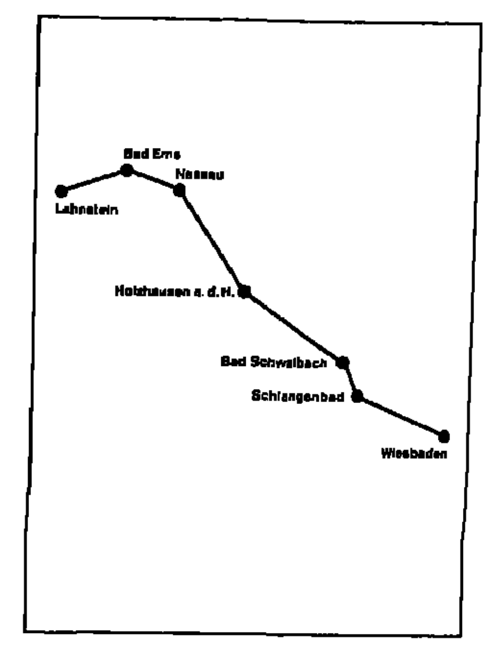
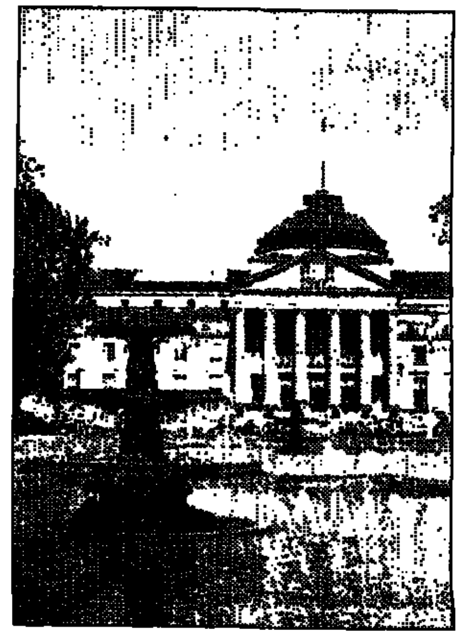
Routes to tour in Germany

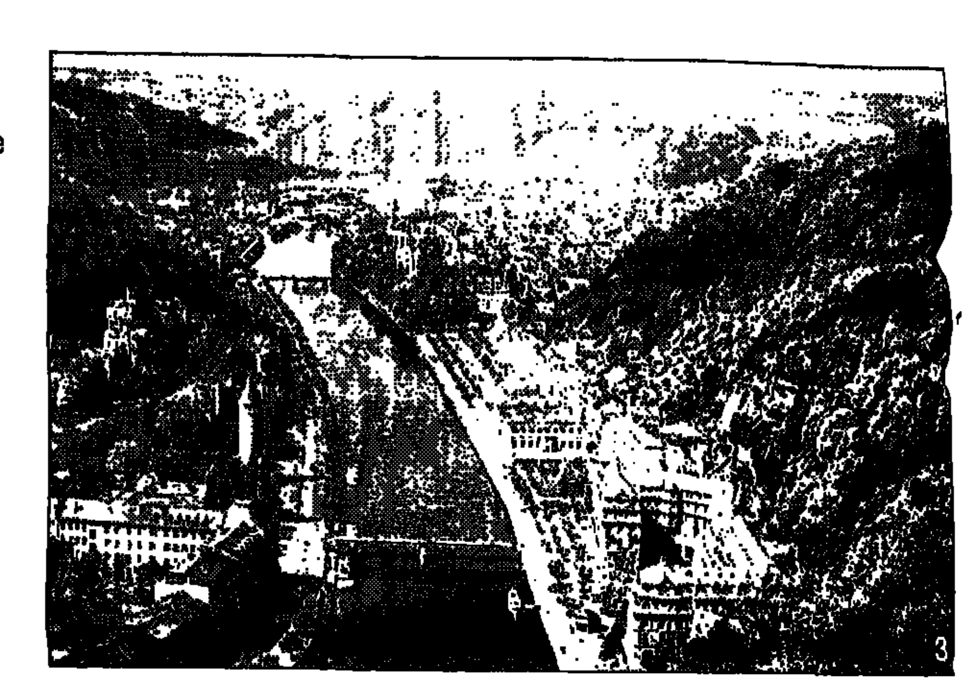


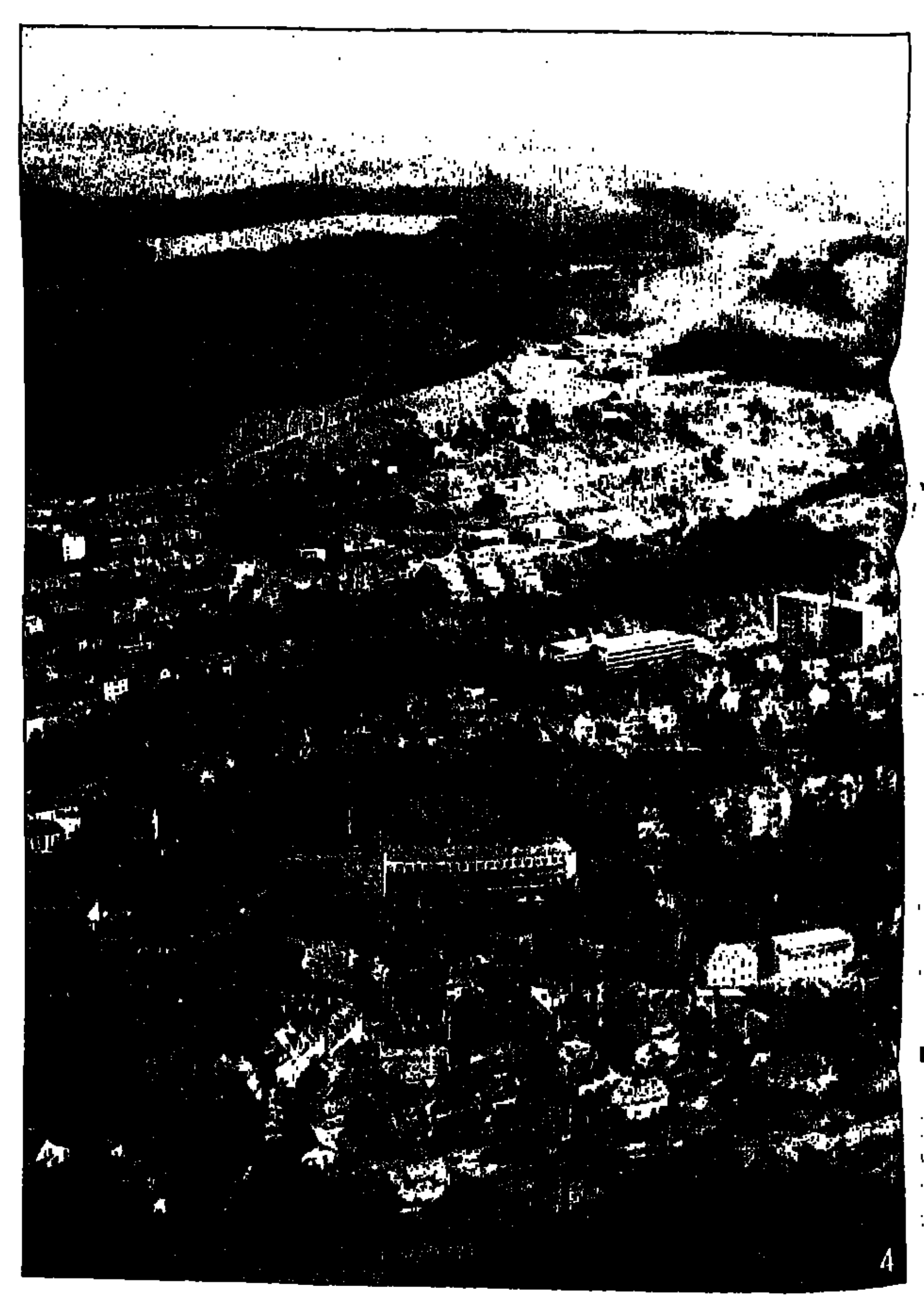
The Spa Route

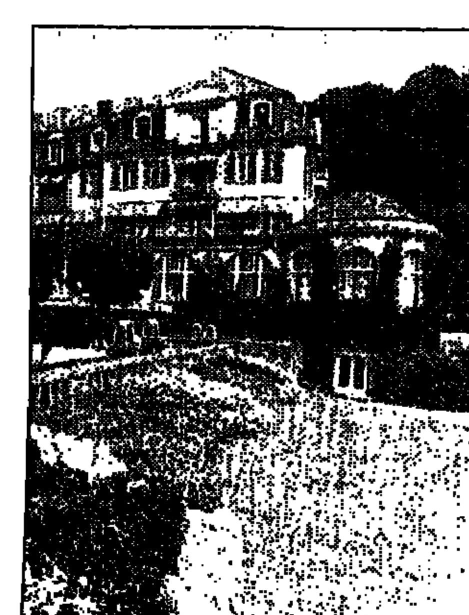


German roads will get you there, say to spas and health resorts spread not all over the country but along a route easily travelled and scenically attractive. From Lahnstein, opposite Koblenz, the Spa Route runs along the wooded chain of hills that border the Rhine valley. Health cures in these resorts are particularly successful in dealing with rheumatism and gynaecological disorders and cardiac and circulatory complaints. Even if you haven't enough time to take a full course of treatment, you ought to take a look at a few pump rooms and sanatoriums. In Bad Ems you must not miss the historic inn known as the *Wirtshaus an der Lahn.* In Bad Schwalbach see for yourself the magnificent *Kursaal.* Take a walk round the Kurpark in Wiesbaden and see the city's casino. Elegant Wiesbaden dates back to the late 19th century Wilhelminian era.

Visit Germany and let the Spa Route be your guide.







1 Wiesbaden
2 Schlangenbad
3 Bad Ems
4 Bad Schwalbach

DZT DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE FÜR TOURISMUS EV
Beethovenstrasse 69, D-6000 Frankfurt/M.



The German Tribune

Hamburg, 19 April 1987
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Gorbachov basks in glare of East Bloc suspicion

Frankfurter Allgemeine
ZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

The Soviet Union's allies in Eastern Europe have viewed with great mistrust what has gone on in Moscow since Mr Gorbachov assumed office.

The CPSU general secretary's reform policy is universally disliked with the partial exception of Poland, where General Jaruzelski says he is following the new course with bated breath.

Yet he too faces difficulties with dogmatic Communist Party officials.

President Ceausescu of Rumania is one of the sternest critics of the new-look Soviet policy.

The Hungarians are the most closely allied to the substance of Soviet reforms and feel themselves vindicated to some extent, but even they are reluctant to openly endorse them.

That leaves Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and East Germany. In Prague, after open disputes between influential Party leaders such as Jiri Strougal and Vasil Bilak, Mr Husak has at least verbally sided with the Soviet leader. Yet the brief postponement of Mr Gorbachov's visit was a clear pointer that all was not well. That is certainly true of East Germany, where no mention at all is made of the Soviet reform policy.

For the East German Communist Party, the SED, and the media it controls the Soviet reform course is virtually taboo.

Well-known concepts such as democratisation, restructuring or *glasnost,* which means transparency and openness, are simply not mentioned.

They don't exist — neither in politbureau terminology nor in the media.

Instead East Germany's propaganda machinery has been geared to the argument that East Germany's Soviet friends have every reason to put their own house in order and revamp the Soviet economy and administration.

East Germany, for its part is said to have little occasion to model itself on any new ideas as long as it is so far ahead of other East Bloc countries in economic output and living standards as it has been for so long.

Then comes the standard argument advanced by all who hold orthodox views in the East Bloc: that domestic peace and quiet, and consolidation of the state, are first needed.

Then, and then only, can many other points be considered. Conditions must be stabilised, not restructured: that, at least, is the overriding tenor of official opinion in East Berlin.

East Berlin leader Erich Honecker and his henchmen have chosen to be fairly brazen on this point, but they can afford it. First, they are not alone in feeling the way they do. Second, they are better aware than any Western observers of the balance of power in the Kremlin.

So it may reasonably be inferred that if Party leaders in the smaller Warsaw Pact countries choose to behave in such an obstinate manner they clearly have good reasons for assuming that this attitude will not be to their disadvantage.

They are plainly banking on Soviet opposition to Mr Gorbachov's reform plans — and the Soviet Party leader and his supporters frankly admit that opposition exists.

The degree of obstinacy shown by smaller East Bloc states in refusing to acclaim and emulate the Soviet reforms stands in inverse proportion to the strength or weakness of Mr Gorbachov's position.

This being so, a cautious assessment must be made of his political support.

This assessment tallies with a number of *observations on the progress of domestic* reform in the Soviet Union, which has been largely sluggish despite the attention paid in the West to individual moves by the new leadership in home and foreign affairs and in handling dissidents.

Former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, a shrewd observer of world affairs, returned from his latest visit to Soviet capital feeling distinctly pessimistic. That ought to be enough to make people who feel inclined to rely unconditionally on Mr Gorbachov's foreign and security policy stop and think.

As for the East Bloc leaders, they have historic experience of reforms to the Soviet system that counsel both *scepticism and a degree of opposition.*

Mr Gorbachov himself has referred to the text-book example, Mr Khrushchov, whose neck, he said, had been broken by the Party machine — a fate some would like to see come his, Gorbachov's, way too.

Nikita Khrushchov proposed introducing "rotation" of leading Party and government officials to loosen up the system.

Mr Gorbachov hopes to achieve the same objective by nominating several candidates and holding free elections for Party appointments at lower levels and for state enterprises and the administration.

This is the real handicap to effective reform and the true bone of contention with both domestic opponents and fraternal Party leaders.

Mr Gorbachov has failed to gain the Soviet central committee's approval for his election plans. That must be particularly painful for him, as they would have been the crucial lever in the proposed restructuring of the sluggish Soviet economy and officialdom.

If Mr Gorbachov fails to get his own way on this point he can wave goodbye to most of his other plans.

History has often been marked by tragedy at such crossroads. The stumbling block is always the same: the privileged don't want to relinquish any of their privileges.

Countless reforms and reformers have come to grief over this point in the course of history. *Fritz Ullrich Fack*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 8 April 1987)

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The next edition of THE GERMAN TRIBUNE will be on 3 May



Soviet delegation arrives

Soviet Deputy Premier Alexei Antonov (left) is welcomed to Bonn by Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Mr Antonov headed a Soviet trade delegation. (See page 7) (Photo: WEREK)

Europeans back zero option for medium-range missiles

Frankfurter Rundschau

Foreign Ministers of the 11 European Community members of Nato have endorsed the "zero option" proposal to withdraw all US and Soviet medium-range missiles from Europe.

At an informal gathering of Foreign Ministers in a former monastery near Turnhout, Belgium, the 11 also agreed, said German delegation members, that there was a continuing need for an "appropriate deterrent" to war of any kind in Europe.

A US-Soviet agreement on intermediate nuclear forces must also be followed by immediate negotiations on shorter-range missiles.

This agreement is felt to be significant because the zero option has been endorsed by France as well.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe appears to have briefed his colleagues on Mrs Thatcher's talks with Mr Gorbachov in Moscow.

During the two days of talks Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German Foreign Minister, repeated his call for the Council of Ministers to authorise the European Commission at the end of April to enter into negotiations on a cooperation agreement between the European Community and Hungary.

The go-ahead has long been on the cards but a number of Community countries are still reluctant to meet Hungarian requests for greater access to the Common Market for Hungarian exports.

Alongside negotiations in progress with Rumania and Czechoslovakia the talks with Hungary would, it was said, be an important prerequisite for a joint declaration by the European Community and the Council for Mutual Econo-

Continued on page 3

■ **WORLD AFFAIRS**

Lessons of history and the changing roles of Israel and Germany

The writer, Michael Wolffsohn, is a lecturer in history at the Bundeswehr University in Munich.

"Democracy In Germany? Is It Possible?" was a 1952 headline in the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*. It was typical of how Israel saw Germany, at least in the early days.

In those days Israel's role was undisputedly that of the master where matters of political morality were concerned. Germany, the pupil, was taught — and learnt — its lessons.

Germans today — some Germans, that is — strongly object to this treatment. They feel 40 years have been enough. Germans ought to step out of the shadow of the past, divest themselves of their penitential robes and walk tall.

Repetition of demands such as these in no way bears out the erroneous assumption that the Federal Republic of Germany walks with its head bowed or bent. It has long ceased to do so.

Many post-war Germans have long set aside the role originally intended for them (and at times voluntarily performed), that of the contrite and remorseful pupil.

Instead they have taken to giving the Israelis advice, both on everyday political issues and, in particular, on territorial affairs.

They recommend what are termed models for a solution to the conflict between the Palestinians and Israel. They offer unsolicited moral and political advice; one might almost say "lessons."

This reversal of roles was partly made possible by Israel donning the robe of the ugly occupying power in 1967.

Other factors were the feeling, shared by many Germans, that they counted for something in world affairs again and the student unrest ("class of '68") and eco-generation with their moral diatribes in Israel's direction.

Last but not least, Bonn was increasingly in demand as a party to world affairs. Could the Federal Republic still be said to walk with its head bowed?

Israeli politicians as a class has failed to fully appreciate or approve these factors, let alone the consequences of this reversal of roles.

The international role of the two countries has undergone a fundamental change even though the tale that Jerusalem once acted as an intermediary between Bonn and Washington is only a rumour.

It is a tale often told in connection with the reparations agreement. But although it may improve with the telling and sound most convincing it still suffers from the drawback that it is, purely and simply, untrue.

Israel never needed, was never able and never wanted or was expected to perform the role of a political go-between.

Even in the reparations period it was clear that Washington was much more important to West Germany than Israel was.

Bonn had no need of Israeli services to improve its standing with the United States. Bonn's decision to go ahead with reparations payments to Israel was reached despite US views rather than because of them.

Bonn has no part to play as a mediator in the Arab-Israeli conflict, although there is no lack of would-be mediators of all party-political persuasions in the Federal Republic.

This lack of a role as mediator is due first and foremost to the fact that Bonn is not in a position to exert leverage of any kind, let alone pressure, on any of the parties to the conflict.

The Federal Republic is well suited as a behind-the-scenes matchmaker for the Western alliance. It is on good terms with both Israel and the Arab world.

By virtue of "traditional German-Arab friendship" Bonn stands a better chance of making headway in this role than, says, Britain, France or Italy.

This "traditional friendship" sounds a note of nostalgia, certainly for the Arabs, in calling to mind bygone days without a shadow of the colonial past that clouds relations with Britain and France.

Sad to say, this German-Arab friendship is somewhat tainted by memories of the Third Reich even though, all things considered, it only dates back to the 1940s. So future-orientated Germans would do well to play down the "traditions" of German-Arab friendship.

Bonn's links with Moscow have been known to pay dividends for Israel. The Federal government lent a hand in securing the release of the Soviet dissident Anatoli Shcharansky in 1985, for instance.

Bonn may, of course, at times have been sorely tempted to play this part, especially in the European Community context.

European Community leaders approved in June 1980 a declaration

Süddeutsche Zeitung

largely drafted and endorsed by the West Germans in which the Community, including Bonn, indirectly offered military guarantees of what was seen as a solution.

The weight of the solution is less noteworthy in this connection than that of the countries which proposed it.

European Community governments have difficulty in persuading their voters to defend their own countries. How on earth are they going to lend military support to others?

France and Italy sent troops into Lebanon in 1982/83 but withdrew them when the going grew too tough.

The Italians pulled out entirely in 1984; the French transferred their units to the less endangered UN force in Lebanon.

The multinational force that monitors and helps to keep the Egyptian-Israeli peace in the Sinai includes European units, but they run a less serious risk than in Lebanon and, here again, the Federal Republic is conspicuous by its absence.

There are good reasons for the Bundeswehr's no-show. Constitutional provisions make it extremely difficult to validate the deployment of Bundeswehr units outside Nato territory.

The parties to the Middle East conflict are naturally well aware that the Europeans are "paper tigers" and do not believe Europe has a part to play in settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In everyday politics, as against the "lower depths" of history and psychology, another reversal of roles has occurred over the years that might be characterised by the question: "Who is courting whom?"

Until 1955 West Germany was courting Israel, and Israel was less than enthusiastic. Then, in May 1955, the Federal Republic gained sovereignty and had to bear in mind day-to-day issues and considerations of Deutschlandpolitik.

For fear that the Arab states might impose restrictions on trade with the Federal Republic or upgrade relations with the GDR Bonn in turn showed limited enthusiasm about Israeli efforts, clearly apparent from 1956/57, to negotiate the establishment of diplomatic ties.

Yet Bonn remained keen to help Israel. From 1957 it bought arms from and later exported arms to Israel.

This was done unofficially, with a view to squaring the circle. The aim was to maintain cordial, but not diplomatic, relations with Israel.

Jerusalem wanted both, but failed to make headway until 1965. When Bonn finally slithered into diplomatic ties there could no longer be any question of continuing to supply arms (supplies of which had come to light).

There has been no change in the basic configuration since 1955. Israel remains the supplicant. So can the Germans really be said to wear penitential robes?

The supplicant's role is one extreme, the avenger's another. Immediately after the Second World War there seemed to be a distinct possibility of both many Jews and many Gentiles boycotting German goods.

Yet "Made in Germany" soon regained prestige and quality status and was no longer a mark of Cain.

In the initial post-war period Germany was the pariah in world affairs; Israel now plays this part.

Ever since Israel became an occupying power, and especially during the fighting in Lebanon in 1982/83, there have been frequent calls, in the Middle East debate in the Federal Republic, for economic sanctions to be imposed on Israel.

Government and Opposition politicians called for the annual loan of DM140m, lent at concessional interest rates since 1966, to be waived.

It wasn't, but the debate indicates how far the wind had changed, whose face it used to blow into and whose face it blows into now.

The role of an occupying power is something new for Israel and for the Jewish people. Hardly in keeping with their traditional image, it is more attuned to that of the Ugly German — at least from 1939 to 1945.

This unaccustomed and unusual role for Israel brings to light another reversal of roles in German-Israeli relations, that of the user of force, the side that resorts to violence.

Germany's traditional foreign policy image has frequently been in keeping with a dictum often quoted in the Kaiser's days: *Viel Feind', viel Ehr'* (The more enemies you have, the more it does you credit).

The emphasis was on a policy of strength. This emphasis underwent a fundamental change in West Germany after the Second World War.

Cologne political scientist Hans-Peter Schwarz coined a superb and convincing tag for the Federal Republic's preference for self-restraint in power politics.

A country that used to be obsessed with power, he wrote, came to forget power.

It was an entirely different matter in Israel, where the image and the attitude of the defenceless, weak and gentle Jew underwent a change of its own.

Zionism sought to create a "new Jew" willing and able to defend himself, and succeeded.

This historically understandable reversal of roles demonstrates yet again how Germans and Israelis have drifted apart rather than come closer together.

The Israelis carefully tend and nurse their image of being sabras, a kind of prickly cactus, and that's *just* what they're like: prickly, coarse, or at least far from gentle.

In Germany the emphasis is only gentle. Even conservatives would prefer to see a "gentle republic."

So the political chemistry of German and Israeli society has undergone fundamental changes, making communications more difficult both as a matter of principle and on day-to-day events.

While Germans became "softies" Israelis came to be seen as wearing the "steel helmet" that used to be a Prussian attribute.

Gone are the days when the Germans were coarse and the Jews were soft. The change is clearly due to lessons learnt from history by both sides.

The Germans have come to realise that the use of force can lead to catastrophes for themselves and others; Jews and Israelis have realised that non-violence means being defenceless and being defenceless is tantamount to a death sentence.

There is a certain irony about Israelis today complaining about the Germans having gone soft and Germans complaining about the rough and ready Israelis.

Yet it must be borne in mind that in Germany this is merely the political and social result of the re-education policy strongly supported by Jews and Israelis after the war.

The reversal of roles on the German-Jewish-Israeli stage has succeeded superbly, if not altogether voluntarily.

But the lesson has now been learnt and Germans today definitely walk tall.

One gratifying lesson can be learnt from history in this connection. It is that no one protagonist can always play the same part, neither on the stage nor in world affairs. How annoying, yet what a relief!

Michael Wolffsohn

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 8 April 1987)

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■ **HOME AFFAIRS**

Hesse poll turns a political fact of life on its head

DIE ZEIT

The Hesse *Land* election, in which the SPD was voted out, is not a bitter blow for the party just because it had been in power for 40 years. (The CDU and the FDP now have a majority of 56 to 54 over the SPD and the Greens).

For the first time since the Federal Republic was formed after the war, the partners of a ruling coalition government in Bonn have managed to oust an Opposition government in a *Land*..

The usual trend is for the Bonn government to lose votes in *Land* elections. Chancellor Kohl probably regards Hesse as a sort of compensation for the general election in January when he did not do as well as expected, despite being returned to power.

The government's position in the upper house, the Bundesrat, has been strength ened.

The Opposition parties in Bonn are threatened by a growing process of erosion. This is the end of the road, at least in the meantime, for the Red-Green dream. Both the Greens and the SPD may now find themselves faced by more internal conflict and despondency.

The next state elections in which the SPD and Greens stand to suffer further setbacks (as a concerted opposition: the Greens picked up votes in Hesse) are just round the corner: Rhineland-Palatinate and Hamburg (both on 17 May); and Schleswig-Holstein and Bremen (13 September).

Chancellor Kohl's power base now looks even safer. The SPD will have to bury plans gradually to win back a majority in the Bundesrat (through winning *Land* elections) in order to exert more pressure on the government.

But the coalition's majority in the Bundesrat is a comfortable 27 to 14.

The Hesse result has created a strange kind of division of labour, a new federalistic variant.

The *Land* of Hesse was missing in the broad sun-belt of industrially and economically flourishing southern German states under conservative rule — principally Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg.

The SPD has been left with the awkward task of government in the more difficult states: poorhouses such as Bremen and the Saarland as well as North Rhine-Westphalia, which is encumbered by the problems resulting from the era of unbridled industrial expansion.

If this trend towards conservative administrations in the *Länder* continues, the CDU, CSU and FDP might even manage to achieve a two-thirds majority in the Bundesrat to complement their comfortable majority in the Bundestag.

Many observers said this would happen immediately after Chancellor Kohl's government first took over power in 1982/83.

In the minds of its protagonists the Red-Green alliance was conceived, albeit to a limited extent, as an alternative to the Bonn coalition.

The attempt to make its existence the norm has failed miserably in Hesse. Viewed realistically, the chance of a rerun is not in sight.

In Hamburg there are not enough Green-Alternatives willing to enter into an government alliance with the SPD.

Although the SPD's leading candidates in Schleswig-Holstein and the Rhineland-Palatinate do not rule out the possibility of a Red-Green alliance neither candidate is running the risk of voicing his support for such a situation right from the outset.

One of the politicians to suffer most from these changed circumstances is undoubtedly Oskar Lafontaine, the Saarland Premier.

He is the only prominent SPD politician openly saying that the party must remain open to the Greens.

The Social Democrats and the Greens have taken hard knocks in different ways. The post-mortems are underway. A look at the brief but highly significant history of the Red-Green experiment in Hesse might help.

When he casually referred to a "majority on this side of the CDU/CSU" after the Hesse election in 1982, the party chairman, Willy Brandt, had three underlying objectives.

First and foremost, his remark was intended to provoke the new government in Bonn.

Second, it provided a ray of hope for the SPD, which at that time feared what has now become reality: a recession.

Third, it was intended as a symbol for a new SPD.

It was only with the help of such noncommittal statements and hovering illusions that the SPD was able to push aside the trauma it now faces.

The SPD's 100-year party-political experience has shown that rival left-wing parties must either be fought, divided, ingored or soaked up.

The Hesse model fitted in with this strategy. The longer the Red-Green experiment lasted, however, the less discernible the meaning and aims of the government led by Holger Börner became.

Many Social Democrats feel that the loss of Hesse is the electorate's response to Willy Brandt's strategy.

They conclude that the Red-Green adventure was a mistake right from the very start and that the SPD would now be in a much stronger position if it had rejected the idea.

Such considerations generally lead to the realisation that the SPD must now turn its attention to its traditional values and voters.

After the battle . . . Hesse winner Walter Wallmann (CDU) at right with defeated SPD opponent Hans Krollmann. (Photo: Sven Simon)

In reality, however, the Social Democrats cannot simply ignore political realities.

The face of industrial society has changed and the nature of the SPD with it.

In line with its own objectives and in accordance with the expectations of the electorate the party must develop model solutions for a changing society.

It is now clear that its activities in the various commissions on the relationship between ecological and economic development have not impressed voters.

A new start is needed following exaggerated speculations over a Red-Green alliance policy.

The party's chairman-apparent in place of Willy Brandt, Hans-Jochen Vogel, is doing all he can to smother the mood of dejection in a flurry of activity.

The party must, Vogel emphasises, take a critical look at itself and then start bolstering up its morale and power, above all in Hamburg.

The number of SPD politicians who have a bad conscience about the party's dealings with the Greens is probably decreasing.

From now on the party's strategy will be even more clearly shaped by the Nuremberg party congress resolutions on nuclear energy, employment, the environment and missiles.

The Vogel era, it seems, has already begun.

His calls for greater discipline and harmony within the party have fallen on fertile ground.

The envisaged reorientation towards the really vital issues of the current legislative period, however, requires plenty of staying power.

The opposition parties have been unable to score points off the no more than lacklustre efforts of Chancellor Kohl's government during recent weeks.

The apparent downturn of the economy is bound to have adverse effects on the government's major reform plans, for example, in the field of health insurance and pensions.

The approach to the problems associated with the fast breeder reactor in Kalkar must also be carefully considered.

Will North Rhine-Westphalia's premier Johannes Rau fight a running battle with Bonn and risk losing it?

It is only a matter of time before the fundamental ecology/economy conflict breaks out again in the SPD.

The shock of the Hesse election has only temporarily ironed out antagonisms.

The Greens will continue to play a part in the SPD's problems.

The election outcome and events in the SPD may also stimulate a new approach by the Greens.

The party's pragmatists, who had pinned their hopes for better or for worse on the "historic alliance" with the Social Democrats, are now at a loss as to what to do.

In the near future the fundamentalists will decide what happens in the party's official decision-making bodies.

This reinforces the impression that the Greens are basically an anti-SPD party.

Rumours of a party split have often circulated. Although things needn't go that far the same effect may come about if Joschka Fischer and other pragmatic Greens resign themselves to their fate.

This trend will be more strongly influenced by facts rather than speeches.

The two state elections in May in the Rhineland-Palatinate and Hamburg will show whether the SPD has recovered from the shock result in Hesse.

Its chances of victory are very slim in Rhineland-Palatinate, but it will pulling out all the stops in Hamburg.

For the second time Klaus von Dohnanyi will set out to win the Hamburg election with an absolute SPD majority or via a coalition with the FDP.

The election-weary populace in Hamburg still has to be convinced that such a coalition is a political necessity and not just an SPD survival strategy.

If the SPD loses the election in its former stronghold Hamburg it will then play an almost marginal role in the Bundesrat and govern in only three states.

Gerhard Spörl

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 10 April 1987)

Continued from page 1

ic Cooperation (Comecon) on the basis of future ties.

Herr Genscher agreed with Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans that relations between the Community and the United States ought not to be left solely to the European Commission.

A meeting of either the Council of Ministers' troika (the immediate past, present and next chairman) or all 12 Community Foreign Ministers with US Secretary of State George Shultz was felt to be advisable so as to avert the risk of fresh trade policy disputes.

The Ministers also reviewed the situation in the Middle East. M. Tindemans said the declaration by the Twelve in February in support of a Middle East peace conference with international participation had triggered a degree of dynamism in the region.

He did not rule out the possibility that he might visit a number of Middle East countries soon at the Community's behest.

On 26 April the European Council will confer with its (Persian) Gulf states counterpart on the terms of a long-envisaged agreement.

It is seen as being modelled on the European Community's treaty ties with the Asean countries in South-East Asia.

Agreement has been hampered so far by the Gulf states' demand to export petroleum products duty-free to the European Community.

That would inevitably mean further oil refinery closures in Europe.

Erich Hauser

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 April 1987)

■ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Königswinter conference gets to grips with 'acrid idea of Eurosclerosis'

General-Anzeiger

The preparatory group for the 37th Anglo-German conference at Königswinter showed gifts of prophecy and political instinct in laying down the topics for discussion, which it did about six months ago in London.

The conference was held over the first weekend in April and proved a great success. Immediately after Mrs Thatcher's Moscow visit the one topic, that of a turning-point in US-Soviet relations, was extremely explosive, and not only for British participants.

Thirty years after the signing of the Treaty of Rome the conference analysis of the condition of the European Community centred on the acrid concept of "Eurosclerosis."

Just under a year after the Soviet reactor accident Chernobyl was a third issue that could naturally not be disregarded. Youth and the Future was a final topic, intended as a reminder not to forget the younger generation.

All issues could not, of course, be dealt with anywhere near exhaustively. But, as a British participant put it: "It was important to discuss matters frankly and freely and without pressure in an open atmosphere."

The discussion seems to have been a hammer-and-tongs affair in the working party that discussed the state of the 12-member European Community.

Editor-in-chief Thomas Kielinger of the *Rheinischer Merkur* said in his report there could be no doubt that the concept of "Eurosclerosis" must be rejected as "defeatist." Yet members (unnamed, in keeping with an unwritten rule) complained that reforms had failed to be carried out. There was still, for instance, no unified internal market.

There were bitter complaints on both sides about Mrs Thatcher for her opposition to the European Monetary System.

The North-South divide in the European Community was found to be "alarming," while Herr Kielinger referred to a "renaissance of narrow-mindedness."

British and German members of the working party were agreed that the German government was largely to blame for what one participant called a "throwback to the Biedermeier era."

Bonn was felt to adopt too harsh a course toward the European Community, and Jacques Delors' dictum that "Europe is overshadowed by the German Question" went the rounds.

Chancellor Kohl, it was felt, ought to scrap his "sermons to the European Community." As one speaker put it: "Germany seems to want to say that it no longer needs Europe."

Foreign Office state secretary Dr Jürgen Ruhfus waded in to stem the tide of these complaints. Bonn, he said, was well aware that more must be done for the European Community.

The Chancellor's meeting with the European Commission had been most useful. The Federal Republic had, for instance, been a "driving force" behind European Political Cooperation.

New sectors for integration must be sought, such as in the security sector. The Western European Union was suggested as an instrument.

A coordinated European security policy played a major role in the evaluation of US-Soviet relations. Hella Pick, Bonn correspondent of *The Guardian*, London, referred to an "exciting new dimension of Soviet policy," the quality of which had, however, remained controversial.

How was Europe to respond without provoking a process of decoupling from the United States or promoting tendencies toward American isolationism?

There were those who advocated Western concessions to Mr Gorbachov, but others also wondered whether the West ought to respond at all.

But all participants, or so Ms Pick said, were working on the assumption that agreement on medium-range missiles would be reached soon.

"Problems Without Frontiers" — the conference motto — applied to atomic energy in particular. But the topic failed to trigger dismay to any great extent.

Britain's Ian Smart, couching his group's consensus in the strongest terms, arrived at the formula: "Someone or other really ought to do something."

No consensus was reached on whether the financial burden of phasing out atomic energy ought to be shared. It was also clear that Germans take a more dramatic view of environmental problems than the British.

A British participant reduced the the current state of the nuclear debate, in a somewhat cynical report on the last international energy conference, to a striking common denominator.

The conference, he said, had spent an entire day discussing Chernobyl, whereupon a "fragile optimism" had gained currency. A few hundred people would die of the consequences in the years ahead, "but 50 million will die in any case."

Energy policy, he concluded, would continue to rely on nuclear power.

The future of youth, said SPD Bundestag MP Anke Martiny, could not be viewed in isolation. Young people today were a complex phenomenon.

Unemployment threatened to lead to early "resignation" and to feelings of powerlessness and lack of perspective.

Others in contrast felt young people showed signs of "intellectual pertness" along the lines of "let's build our own future."

The three days of dialogue and discussion in Königswinter were days spent reappraising the architecture of Mr Gorbachov's "house of Europe." But agreement was neither planned nor, for that matter, felt to be necessarily desirable.

One working party said that if greater headway was to be made in this particular debate Mr Gorbachov himself ought best to be invited to attend the next round of Königswinter talks.

Thomas Wittke

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 6 April 1987)

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New policies will help links with West — Soviet envoy

Thirteen German towns have now become twinned with towns in the Soviet Union. But so far, all the Soviet towns are in the European regions. No Siberian or Soviet Asian town is involved. A meeting has been held in Saarbrücken between officials of twinned towns in both countries. There was some political exercising, but not that much. Adolf Müller reports for the *Hannoversche Allgemeine*.

Yuli Kvitsinsky, the Soviet ambassador in Bonn, told delegates at the twin-town meeting in Saarbrücken that Moscow's new policy would give a big impetus to relations with Western countries.

Saar Premier Oskar Lafontaine, a Social Democrat, compared the Bonn government's 1970 Ostpolitik with the Soviet domestic opening. He called for a second phase of detente.

In the final message, both sides emphasised their commitment to detente and disarmament. That ended, for the most part, the politically obligatory exercises.

The Soviet delegation consisted of 44 local politicians, economists and academics from the 13 towns and local authority areas that are twinned with towns in the Federal Republic.

The German delegation consisted of Lord Mayors, Mayors, chief clerks and other borough officials. But there seemed to be no threat of officials discovering common interests.

Saarbrücken's ties with the Georgian capital, Tiflis, have developed splendidly since the 1970s. Tours for visitors from the Saar capital are usually fully booked long in advance, often by previous visitors.

The Georgian hosts are said in Saarbrücken to be indignant if fewer than 500 visitors from the Saar take part in each tour.

Georgian academics and research scientists work at Saarbrücken University. Artists and drama companies maintain frequent exchange arrangements.

Now that relations between the Saar and Soviet Georgia are seen to be running so smoothly, smaller and medium-sized Saar companies have come to take a more sanguine view of trade ties with East Bloc states.

Oberbürgermeister Hans Jürgen Koebnick of Saarbrücken sees twinning as triggering economic benefits in that it can help to promote trade ties.

Language difficulties are a serious handicap to relations, with the Soviet Union clearly having the edge over the Federal Republic.

The self-evident answer is to promote Russian as a third modern language taught at schools in the Federal Republic and to encourage school exchange schemes.

The way exchange arrangements work is that visitors can pay travel expenses in their own currency and stay-

Continued on page 6

■ PERSPECTIVE

Conflict in the Aegean: no war but a solution is a long way off

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The conflict in the Aegean between Greece and Turkey has many and extremely complex maritime, strategic, economic, historical and legal origins.

The Greeks can claim to have history and international law on their side. The Turks have traditionally been the more powerful disputant.

Greece is in a more vulnerable position. Turkey has a compact land mass, a bigger population and larger armed forces.

The proposals by the Greek prime minister, Andreas Papandreou, to take the Aegean dispute to the International Court, and by the Turkish prime minister, Turgut Ozal, to discuss the delimitation of the continental shelf boundaries on a bilateral basis, correspond to the line of approach pursued by both countries for over a decade.

Now that the tension of the latest dispute over oil exploration rights off the Turkish coast has died down both countries find themselves in the same situation as in the mid-seventies, i.e. there is no sign of a political or legal solution, but the danger of war has been averted.

The dispute relates to several problems. First is how to set the boundaries of the Aegean's continental shelf and thus demarcate respective oil exploration areas. This triggered the latest conflict.

A second is the possibility that Greece might extend its territorial waters from six to 12 nautical miles. This would cut off ports in western Turkey and obstruct the passage of Soviet ships from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean.

Airspace rights in the Aegean and the militarisation of the islands in the region are the other main bones of contention.

All these problems are politically connected with the occupation of northern Cyprus by Turkish troops in 1974.

In November 1976 the governments of both countries agreed in Berne, Switzerland, to avoid all action which might impair negotiations on the continental shelf problem. Ankara's recent moves have broken this ten-year "truce".

In spring 1973 a Greek-American consortium began drilling for oil in the northern Aegean. A few months later Turkey began prospecting for oil not far from the Greek site.

Athens protested and a host of advisory opinions, declarations and warnings ensued.

November 1973 a map was published in the official Turkish journal which, contrary to previous legal practice and opinion, drew the borderline along the median line between Greece and Turkey, thus "annexing" the continental shelf around the eastern Greek islands to Turkey.

One year later maps published in Turkey and showing the Greek islands off Anatolia — including Rhodes and Samos — and Cyprus as Turkish territory turned up in London.

This was shortly after Turkish troops had occupied the northern part of Cyprus.

The next controversy centred around flags. On three consecutive occasions red flags with the Turkish crescent emblem were hoisted overnight on two Greek islands.

At the time nationalist Turkish politicians even considered subjecting certain islands to Turkish sovereignty.

The Turkish government, however, did not heed these demands and even today casts no doubts on Greek territorial sovereignty as laid down in the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne.

A war almost broke out between the two Nato members 11 years ago.

The same Turkish oil exploration vessel which was the centre of controversy this time, the *Sismik I*, sailed out to carry out exploration activities.

Athens, which felt sure that it had the legal arguments on its side, appealed to the United Nations Security Council and proposed an arbitral award by the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Although Ankara initially agreed to this suggestion it then delayed a submission to the Court.

Finally, Athens unilaterally requested a court decision, but the Court claimed in 1978 that it did not have the jurisdiction to decide the matter.

Negotiations between the two countries dragged on and on.

At the beginning of 1987 Athens again suggested that the two countries draft a joint submission to the International Court of Justice, but Turkey did not agree.

The dispute between Greece and Turkey was particularly impassioned during the final phase of the Greek military dictatorship.

Whereas the conservative governments led by Karamanlis and Rallis defused the conflict but avoided any dialogue with Turkey as long as Turkish troops remained in northern Cyprus Andreas Papandreou has sought an amicable solution.

As Opposition leader, however, he called for the "resolute defence of Hellenic rights" and called for the sinking of a Turkish research vessel by the Greek navy.

State takeover

Acting on Papandreou's instructions the Greek industry minister Peponis announced five weeks ago that the government intends nationalising the North Aegean Oil Company, the biggest foreign investor in Greece (in which the BASF subsidiary Wintershall also has a stake).

He justified this decision by referring to the consortium's plans to start drilling for oil in the near future east of the island of Thasos (in an area which is not legally controversial).

Such drillings, the government claimed, could lead to complications with Ankara.

Instead of showing its appreciation for the policy of restraint pursued by Athens the Turkish government gave the go-ahead to its national oil company to carry out oil exploration activities in the controversial waters.

The *Siskik I* sailed out to conduct seismological research in this area. In terms of international law the main problem is whether the eastern islands of the Aegean Sea are located on the Asia Minor continental shelf and hence, as Ankara claims, belong to Turkey or whether the islands have their own respective shelves and therefore belong to Greece. The United Nations Law of the Sea Convention signed on 10 December, 1982, a follow-on agreement to the 1958 Geneva Continental Shelf Convention, decided that coastal states have the exclusive right to explore and exploit the resources of their continental shelves, i.e. the seabed and the subsoil of its submarine areas outside of its territorial waters.

These exclusive rights only exist up to the point where the shelf slopes off to the deep sea bed, providing this is not further than 200 nautical miles from the coast.

According to Article 1 of the Geneva Continental Shelf Convention islands also have a continental shelf. This was not explicitly stated, however, by the Law of the Sea Convention.

Both Conventions were not ratified by Turkey.

In 1969, however, the International Court of Justice decided in a dispute over the continental shelf off the coasts of the Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands, that the first three articles of the Geneva Continental Shelf Convention had become customary international law and were therefore binding on all countries.

According to the 1958 Geneva Convention the continental shelf between two diametrically opposed countries must be apportioned according to the median line or equidistance principle, if no other form of agreement can be found.

The 1982 Law of the Sea Convention only refers to a "fair" solution on the basis of negotiations.

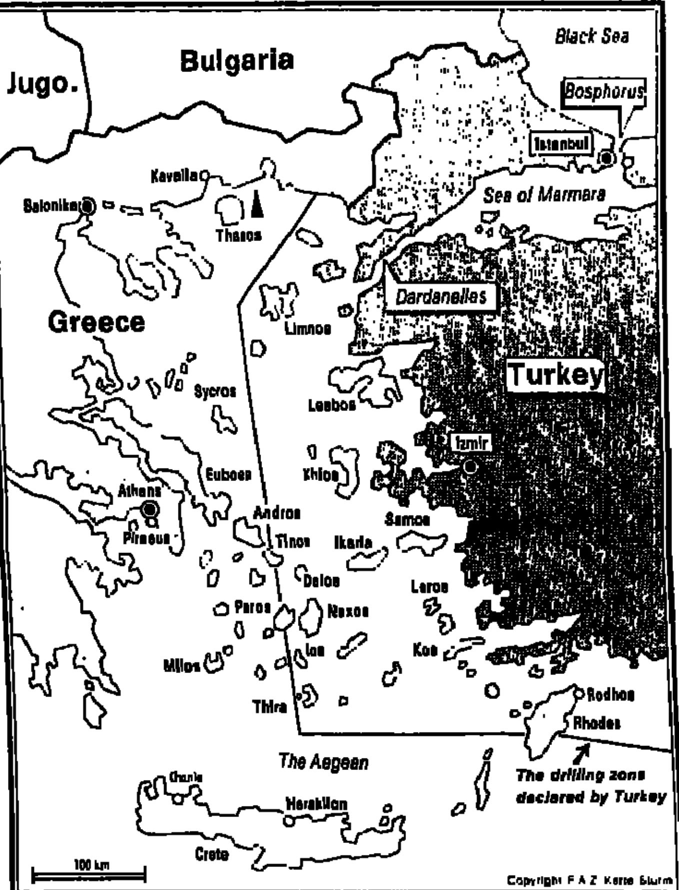
As this Convention has not been ratified by Turkey the arbitration procedure it envisages is not binding on Turkey.

Agreement has yet to be reached on whether, as Ankara maintains, the Greek mainland represents the relevant coastline for the solution of this dispute or the islands themselves.

Geomorphologically speaking, the islands of the eastern Aegean are situated on the "natural extension" of the Anatolian continental shelf.

The Turks conclude from this fact that any dividing line should not include the islands but should be drawn along the deepest channel in the sea as a median line, that is, equidistant to the coasts of the Greek and Turkish mainlands.

The Greek argument, on the other hand, which corresponds to the provisions of the Geneva Convention on this matter, states that almost the whole of the Aegean's seabed around the 2,463 islands belong to Greece.



(Map: Sturm/Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung)

The Greek continental shelf by and large forms a continuous whole.

In support of its thesis Athens refers to a number of judicial decisions and treaties, claiming that these have become customary international law.

What is more, Athens refers back to history. The entire Aegean region, it claims, has been populated by Greeks for over 3,000 years, a fact which invasions and the almost 500-year occupation of Ottoman rulers have been unable to change.

Aeolians, Ionians and Dorians already settled along the coast of Asia Minor around 1000 BC and were only driven out of this region following Greece's military defeat by Turkey in 1922.

In the Greek soul, says Athens, the Aegean lives on as an Hellenic sea, the sea of the ancient Greek seafarers.

Athens could counter the Turkish argument that, according to Article 6 of the Geneva Continental Shelf Convention, "special circumstances" exist which justify setting a new boundary by pointing out that this Convention was not ratified by Turkey and that Ankara cannot simply cite the Articles which back its own position and disregard the rest.

Finally, Athens could also argue that Ankara did not object to numerous oil-prospecting licences issued by the Greek government during the 1960s and has thus, by remaining silent, tacitly supported the Greek position.

The Greek stance on the continental shelf problem is based on sound legal reasoning, whereas Turkey's arguments place greater emphasis on "justice" and geographical aspects.

Ankara, therefore, can only hope for a broad interpretation of the term "special circumstances" if the dispute is settled by the International Court of Justice or for a mood of compromise if it is settled via bilateral negotiations with Athens.

Robert von Lucius

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 31 March 1987)

■ CIVIL LAW

Daimler-Benz plans for big road-test area rejected as unconstitutional

A plan by Daimler-Benz to build a huge vehicle proving works near its production plants in Baden-Württemberg has been rejected by the Federal Constitutional Court.

The company, backed by the *Land* government, wanted the development at Boxberg. The court said it was unconstitutional. Strong objections were raised by local farmers, many of whom would have lost land that had been in their families for generations.

The decision indirectly raises another issue — that of the role of state planning procedures. Elected bodies at *Land*, district and local level did not think the matter through. The opposition of farmers was badly underestimated.

Daimler-Benz is a huge company. Its relationship with the government has, by this decision, been brought into question.

The court's decision was so unequivocal that the company has decided not to appeal. However, the bench did outline ways in which Daimler-Benz and the Baden-Württemberg government in Stuttgart might still achieve their aim.

The state assembly would have to approve structural improvement and industrial development legislation providing for projects of this kind while remaining compatible with constitutional guarantees of property rights.

The court even went a step further, saying it would be prepared to consider compulsory purchase legislation passed with this project in mind.

Baden-Württemberg Premier Lothar Späth and his CDU Cabinet should, however, not to try and pick out in haste what appear to be favourable points in the ruling.

With nothing in its kitbag but a handful of legal ploys the *Land* government might find itself caught in a political quagmire. It is not, after all, just a mat-



ter of rectifying a legal formality. Legislative proposals could be sure to set thorough parliamentary consultations in motion, not to mention a broad public hearing, as the court itself noted.

What it failed to point out (because it wasn't relevant to the constitutional appeal) was that a fresh debate on the Boxberg proving ground would be bound to trigger a reappraisal of an even more fundamental issue.

The issue in question is the role and importance of all state planning procedures — in Baden-Württemberg and elsewhere.

The way Daimler-Benz handled planning permission for Boxberg certainly had little to do with state planning.

Elected political bodies at *Land*, district and local levels did not arrive at a decision after due consideration of economic requirements in what is unquestionably a development area.

From the outset the sole consideration was the requirement, as expressed by Daimler-Benz, for a large-scale proving ground as close as possible to production facilities in Untertürkheim and Sindelfingen.

When the company announced that 1,000 jobs would be created in contracting companies, plus 30 apprenticeships and over DM100m in work for local building contractors, politicians — at local and *Land* level — were as keen as mustard.

They woefully underestimated organised resistance by local farmers determined to turn down the offer of pieces of silver in compensation for their ancestral fields and meadows.

In a free-market economy there is nothing unusual about a company drawing up plans, naturally in accordance with its own interests, and submitting them to political bodies for approval.

Yet in the case of Mercedes and Baden-Württemberg the financial dimensions are alarming.

Last year Daimler-Benz, with turnover totalling DM65bn, spent roughly DM5bn on capital investment.

This year the *Land* budget of Baden-Württemberg totals a little over DM40bn, including capital investment of DM5.4bn, or 13.5 per cent of total expenditure.

Those who wonder what freedom of decision a *Land* government can possibly have in dealings with a company of this size can hardly be dismissed as belonging to the loony Left.

"Economic clout must not be allowed to prevail over individual property," said former Constitutional Court judge Werner Böhmer after the Karlsruhe ruling, "otherwise we will be back in the Weimar Republic."

Luckily the Federal Republic differs so substantially from Weimar that a throwback is most unlikely. Yet Daimler-Benz, a valued taxpayer, is an indication of how the balance of government and economic power could shift, to the detriment of democratic society.

Fears have already been voiced in villages near Boxberg that Daimler-Benz might cancel contracts with local suppliers even though they have nothing to do with whether or not the proving ground is built there.

Daimler-Benz are unlikely to react in such a shortsighted manner. They have plans for further large-scale projects in Rastatt and on Lake Constance, both in Baden-Württemberg, with fierce local opposition in both cases.

Baden-Württemberg has so far done Daimler-Benz proud and not been the loser for it. But not everything that is in the benefit of the Mercedes star needs to that of Baden-Württemberg as a high-tech state.

That is a point Premier Späth will hopefully have borne in mind in drafting his government policy statement calling, in connection with a water-rate levy as an environmental protection offensive, for reconciliation between economy and ecology.

If he is serious on this point he must at times be prepared to make an economic sacrifice.

It need not be a disaster for Baden-Württemberg if Daimler-Benz prefers offers of proving ground facilities in Bremen or Bavaria to endless arguments in Baden-Württemberg — or even test-drives new Mercedes models abroad.

Even the Boxberg local government area, definitely a development area by Baden-Württemberg standards, need not despair.

Other areas would be only too happy to boast unemployment at a mere 6.2 per cent. Baden-Württemberg may depend on industry for a living, but that doesn't mean the entire state needs to be a designated industrial estate.

Wulf Reimer

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 26 March 1987)

Continued from page 8

free of charge, with families in the host country.

This arrangement is very convenient for Soviet guests, given their country's chronic shortage of foreign exchange.

Yevgeni V. Ivanov, spokesman for the Soviet delegation in Saarbrücken, said tours to the Federal Republic from the Soviet Union might pose certain problems, but he foresaw no difficulties with groups of between 200 and 300.

He was fulsome in his praise of the Saarbrücken gathering. He felt it was a great achievement to have held it at all.

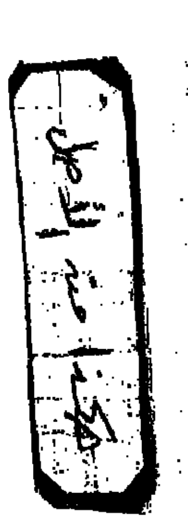
The three-day meeting in the Saar capital marked the beginning of partnership talks in the narrower sense of the term; Soviet delegates then went on to visit prospective twin towns, including four in Baden-Württemberg.

It is worth noting that all Soviet cities and towns that have so far made twinning arrangements with local authorities in the Federal Republic are in the European part of the Soviet Union.

No local authority in the Federal Republic has yet twinned with a town in Siberia or Soviet Asia.

Adolf Müller

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 April 1987)



Girl, 7, sues governments over Chernobyl

The Bonn government is being sued for damages on the grounds that its handling of information after the Chernobyl nuclear reactor accident last year was inadequate.

In a separate case, the court gave leave for a lawyer acting for a seven-year-old girl to sue the owner-operator of the Chernobyl plant, the Soviet government.

The girl's lawyer, Alexander Frey, and a radiation biologist, Eckhart H. Krüger, told the court, in Munich, that the government had underestimated the health hazard and had not supplied enough information.

Frey told a Press conference that the government's behaviour had been "naive and dilettantish. I shudder to think what might happen if anything of this kind ever occurs again."

Herr Frey, representing Franziska B., 7, in a test case, says people were inadequately informed about high radiation levels in southern Bavaria. He is seeking compensation because of alleged long-term health damage.

Franziska and her family were caught in a thunderstorm at the end of April 1986, when Chernobyl fallout was at its peak. For days she was fed what may have been contamined food by her mother, who was unaware of the position.

The plaintiffs had some success in January when the court ruled that the state must divulge detailed information about radiation measurements and evaluation after the 26 April 1986 disaster.

The court had earlier found that the state must tell the public what it knew.

Defence counsel Thomas Obermiller has submitted a 12-page reply, with 400 pages of data.

Franziska's lawyer is not impressed. He says the state has for the most part been either unable or unwilling to answer the court's questions and was in gross breach of its obligation to brief the public.

Herr Obermiller's submission states that on 28 April, two days after Chernobyl, the Federal Interior Minister advised *Land* authorities to alarm measurement agencies and instruct them to report any increase in radiation.

Counsel for the plaintiff disputes this claim, saying no evidence has been produced to support it.

Herr Frey also claims the Bonn government failed to set up a crisis staff capable of handling the crisis and coordinating fallout precautions.

Federal Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann, CSU, is to be subpoenaed to give evidence in this connection.

The government's lawyer repeats the argument, first put forward by Herr Zimmermann on television on 29 April 1986, that radiation levels were so low there need be no fears of health hazards.

Herr Frey has submitted measurements taken that same day by the GSF, a Federal government agency.

Munich and other areas of the Federal Republic were found to have unusually high radiation levels that midday. They reached a new peak the next morning.

Yet hours later the Bonn Interior Ministry announced that "due to the weather the Federal Republic has not yet been affected by radioactive fallout from the Soviet reactor accident."

Radiation biologist Krüger says that anyone with any sense could see for himself, from the 29 April TV weather chart, that radioactive cloud was on its way over to Germany from the east.

From that day onward there is said to have been a steady increase in radiation levels registered by Federal government agencies. Yet nothing was done, at least initially.

Not until 2 May were instructions on food publicly announced, says Herr Obermiller. Immediate action had not previously been necessary since health hazards had been ruled out.

Herr Frey argues that this was a catastrophic and totally incomprehensible misreading of the situation.

No-one had known whether only one or several reactors had sprung a radioactive leak at Chernobyl, how much radiation had been released and how long it might continue to do so.

He also argues that the government failed to enlist the equipment and expertise of universities and research facilities in a bid to assess the true position.

The government not only failed to relay data to the public and the authorities, he says; it also tried to prevent data from being relayed.

Proceedings have been adjourned. It remains to be seen when they will be resumed and how long they will take.

Roman Arens

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 1 April 1987)

■ TRADE

Europe causes Japan's dreams of a Pax oeconomica with America to fade

Japan's ties with the outside world seem to consist, apart from a few specks of artistic colour, mainly of trade and trade policy problems. This is certainly the impression conveyed by media coverage of Japan in other countries.

The current issue is the US decision to impose sanctions on Japanese electronics exports on the ground that Tokyo has failed to abide by the terms of the semiconductor agreement.

Reports from London say Mrs Thatcher's government is considering imposing sanctions on Japan to exert pressure on Tokyo to allow a British firm access to the Japanese telecom market.

Further examples could readily be cited. Recent exchange rate movements have also been a matter of reducing Japan's trading surpluses by monetary means — at least as the dollar-yen exchange rate is concerned.

Occasional attacks are launched on the Federal Republic of Germany as well as Japan, and the European Community has also come in for criticism. But as a rule Tokyo is pilloried alone.

In part, the Japanese have only themselves to blame. In spite of this, they still suffer from being cast as the scapegoats of the Western economic systems.

When Americans and Western Europeans refer to the "Japanese threat" Japan feels decidedly small and vulnerable in disputes with the United States.

Unlike the European Community

Süddeutsche Zeitung

countries, which can lend each other support in the face of outside criticism. Japan is very much out on its own.

This painful experience of being isolated in a crisis is one reason why Japan has lately reassessed Western Europe in general and the European Community in particular.

The Japanese note, not without envy, how the Europeans refuse to give in despite their many problems.

Tokyo is impressed by how the Europeans succeed, when they manage to agree among themselves, to resist pressure from the United States.

The Japanese think Western Europe is going through something of a revival, and they are watching with growing fascination. Europe-watching is back in fashion.

That is surprising, because many Japanese had practically written Western Europe off in the early 1980s.

Full of the sensation of their own potential, and obsessed by the belief in economically quantifiable success as the sole serious international yardstick, they dreamed of a Pax oeconomica to be presided over jointly by Japan and the United States.

The relative importance of the two economic giants America and Japan would, they were convinced, slowly but surely tilt increasingly in Japan's favour.

Europe would retain its attraction as a cultural museum and tourist destination, but it would not be able to hold its own with the other two as an economic power or a technological innovator and would thus steadily decline.

The Japanese reappraisal of Western Europe's international importance can be inferred from the change in attitude toward the European Community, the 30th anniversary of which was noted with almost keener interest in Japan than in many of its own member-countries.

Not long ago Japan doubted whether Brussels was really entitled to speak for the Community as a whole. A number of Japanese leaders — people to be taken seriously — felt it was more sensible to negotiate with member-governments bilaterally than with the European Commission.

The powers and economic potential of the European Community are no longer doubted in Japan. The progress of political integration in the Community is also followed with keen interest.

Western Europe's importance is even expected to increase in the forthcoming phase of detente in East-West ties.

A senior official at the Japanese Foreign Ministry outlines his government's basic attitude as follows: "We are keen supporters of a strong Europe."

A few years ago Japanese officials would barely have ventured to express any opinion on the subject, let alone a so clearly positive one.

Integration of countries at such different levels of development, as pursued by the European Community since its inception, has been increasingly important since Greece, Spain and Portugal joined.

In the long term Tokyo may see it as a pattern worth copying. Closer economic integration could be of long-term benefit for Japan and a number of its neighbours, always assuming they succeed in setting aside political animosities dating back to the Second World War.

South Korea, for instance, is in the process of transition to a developed industrial state. The Asean countries are of interest to Japan not just as commodity suppliers or investment markets but could themselves benefit from readier access to the Japanese market and from stabilisation of commodity prices.

Australia and New Zealand are also potential partners in a regional economic union.

Ever since it embarked on its process of modernisation in the 19th century Japan has looked to America and to far-off Europe, but this view alone cannot eliminate Japanese isolation.

The European Community has indicated a possible solution, difficult though it might be. *Gebhard Hielscher*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 3 April 1987)

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Soviet Union looks ready to open for business again

Soviet foreign trade is starting to work loose from the rigidity which followed plummeting oil prices and the declining dollar exchange rate.

The State Bank then dug in and trade dwindled as Soviet foreign trade organisations were restructured.

Crowds of visitors attended trade fairs but few major contracts were signed.

Moscow took good care of its foreign exchange reserves. It dismayed capitalist banks by avoiding any increase in net debt and it generally exercised extreme self-discipline.

Last year Soviet foreign trade declined by one fifth. Trade with the Third World, which must have been hard hit, declined by nearly one quarter.

The only statistical increase has been in imports from Comecon countries. Fellow-members of the socialist bloc had to bridge the gap.

Nothing has yet changed. Not even Mrs Thatcher, who was hosted with unusual care and attention, was able to finalise more than a £20m refit for a chemicals plant.

Yet it seems reasonable to assume that the ban on new large-scale projects cannot be maintained for another year.

Soviet foreign trade officials have accordingly come out of cover, and Soviet Deputy Premier Alexei Antonov was accompanied by an unusually large and expert delegation on his visit to Bonn for a session of the German-Soviet economic affairs commission.

This joint commission first met in 1972. German members include government officials and leading industrialists such as Berthold Beitz and Otto Wolff von Amerongen.

Mr Antonov and his delegation may be considered to have been a political vanguard, but they will have played their part in promoting economic ties. An end to Soviet reluctance to undertake further commitments may be heralded by the surprising conclusion of a preliminary contract on the joint development of a high-temperature reactor with a German consortium including BBC, Babcock, Mannesmann and Strabag.

This project is a good example of the finely-tuned Soviet strategy of risk limitation.

No firm commitments have yet been made. The parties to the contract — in Moscow's case the State Atomic Energy Committee — have merely undertaken to draft contracts ready for signing over the next year and a half.

The high-temperature reactor as designed in Mannheim by Brown, Boveri & Cie. has not yet gained acceptance. If it were, it might mean the international breakthrough for BBC after heavy investment in the project.

A similar preliminary agreement with Interatom, the Siemens subsidiary, cannot be ruled out. Interatom also has a high-temperature reactor concept — partly based on BBC licence agreements.

In both cases the Soviet partners would gain an opportunity of probing the technology — and then reaching a decision.

Developing a new reactor generation is an idea of Mr Gorbachov's and is bound to enjoy priority in view of the heavy Soviet demand for energy.

Soviet experts probably became interested in high-temperature reactor not just in view of their higher safety standards but also because they generate process heat more easily.

Industrial plant can be plied with steam and new housing estates be heat-

Continued on page 14

■ THE HANOVER FAIR

Record crowds don't always mean record orders, say exhibitors

Record crowds are flocking to the biggest industrial fare in the world, in Hanover.

In the first two days, 96,000 passed through the turnstiles compared with 70,000 in 1986.

In spite of this, there is scepticism about whether this will turn itself into hard business. Many of the 6,000 exhibitors are not optimistic about orders.

Klaus Murmann, president of the national association of German employers, spoke of "a spring awakening" in his speech at the opening.

A Swabian mechanical engineer, on the other hand, said that people would come away from the Fair "with a black eye," that the coming year would be "bitter."

Economic Affairs Minister Martin Bangemann saw things quite differently at the opening when he said that the economy "was taking a breather."

There is no agreement about the way the economy is developing. Martin Herzog, Economic Affairs Minister in Baden-Württemberg, said that Bangemann's interpretation was "cloudy."

He regarded it as important that employers were taking on stuff and that the period of effortless growth was past. He said: "They are fighting back."

Statistics do indeed show that exports are having a difficult time. In February the engineering and plant construction

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

sector showed a drop in orders of 11 per cent, export orders fell 25 per cent.

The falling dollar exchange rate is not the only cause of this. A manufacturer of hydraulic equipment said he feared that domestic costs were too high to enable his sector to counter the competition from Italy and Britain.

This means that new markets have to be explored. The manufacturer interviewed intends to make a series of visits to the Far East because an American customer has switched production to South Korean.

He supplies hydraulic components and hopes that he will be able to achieve economic growth in the Far East.

The word of the moment on the stands in the Hanover Fair is "High-Tech." Without a shadow of doubt industrial robots are on the way up.

Last year the 125 assembly firms nationwide involved in operating industrial robots had a turnover of almost DM3bn, an increase over the previous year of ten per cent.

The robot business has not done better simply because there are too few skilled operatives and engineers on the labour market.

Even with computer-controlled equipment the human element, the human brain, cannot be disregarded entirely. This is a cheering thought for those who have nightmares about factories where no one works.

High-Tech is no longer the prerogative of major companies such as Siemens, Daimler-Benz, Bosch and AEG. Medium-sized companies have begun to exploit the technology of the future.

One company unveiled a vehicle inductively controlled, as if by a ghostly hand, another presented "artificial kidneys," developed over two years, a dialysis machine that can be described as a "complete chemical factory."

It is the first piece of equipment of its kind that has been tested by the Technischer Überwachungsverein (TÜV). It is the first piece of equipment that can do the monitoring itself and switch itself off.

Small and medium-sized firms also seem to have realised that half the way to success is to link up with major firms with their extensive research laboratories and wide-ranging think tanks.

A South German ventilation manufacturer said: "Marketing is essential, then comes research and development. Anyone can handle production."

Finding customers is all important for even electronics, obviously, do not sell themselves.

Then prices are being undercut in markets abroad in order to hold on to market shares. One exhibitor put it this way: "The economy is not in the depths, it is just getting dented a bit."

But many firms cannot repair what is described as "damage to the body work" all that quickly.

After a tour of the firms from Baden-Württemberg Martin Herzog said that he had not heard anyone say that the economy was going to pieces. Nevertheless forecasts for the rest of the year are far from confident.

People are obviously walking on thin ice trying not to crack it.

Industry is calling on the universities to help in this difficult situation. In many instances they have emerged from their ivory towers, because it is good for their public image to do so, and because research contracts are in their own best interests.

Baden-Württemberg research institutions and organisations for advanced studies have presented 36 research projects at this year's Hanover Fair.

In Tübingen thought is being given to the instrument panel in the private car. Experts are trying their hand at one "screen" on which information can be read about fuel consumption, speed and the other motoring details usually found on dials in a car's instrument panel. A lot of information on a screen rather than a lot of dials in an instrument panel.

Ulm University presented warning equipment against sudden cot death. A sensor is placed under the baby's napkin. If breathing ceases the parents are alerted.

Professor German Müller from Heidelberg University has developed his system of purifying river sludge so far that it is ready for a pilot project.

Hohenheim University has developed a shallow plastic bag that can heat up drinking water in *Third World* countries.

South Germany is normally too far north but in Stuttgart, on a sunny day, water has been heated to 70 degrees.

Universities from other West German states are well represented at Hanover. The Hagen Technical College, for instance, has developed a mobile, electronic note-book for blind people.

Economic research workers could problably do with such equipment since their forecasts about economic growth are brought more and more into question.

The crux of the matter is that when a clear view is required, they must hedge their forecasts with more and more provisos just to be half-way valid.

Politicians have it easier. Everyone understands expressions such as "breathing space," implying taking it easier after a bad day's work.

Still the competition is not sleeping.

Ulrich Schreyer

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 3 April 1987)

China becomes Germany's biggest Third World trading partner

Sino-German trade is developing rapidly and is now worth DM9bn. Otto Wolff von Amerongen, chairman of the Hanover Fair's Far East committee, said that China was now West Germany's most important trading partner in the Third World.

In 1986 West Germany exported DM6.2bn worth of goods to China, a little less than was exported to Japan.

West German imports from China fell slightly to DM2.7bn. Eighty per cent of this volume was for finished goods, 14 per cent for raw materials and three per cent semi-finished goods.

Von Amerongen praised China's economic success. The gross national product increased by more than 11 per cent last year.

Chinese finances were also in a healthy position. The country's foreign debt stood at 17bn dollars, which is relatively low for a developing country.

Chinese state councillor Zhang Jingfu said that the People's Republic of China would keep to its long-term policy of opening up the country. But China needed foreign capital for this through credits and through foreign companies investing directly in China.

Between 1979 and 1986 the Chinese government approved direct investment projects from 7,775 foreign companies, an investment volume of 16.2bn dollars.

Mr Zhang Jingfu pointed out, however, that China would only be able to increase its imports by a similar increase in its exports.

Exports must earn the foreign currency the country needs in order to buy technology, equipment and goods from abroad.

He said that China herself was now exporting technology to a significant extent. Contracts had been signed with Sweden and the USA for the supply of launcher rockets for satellites.

Similar negotiations were under way with the Federal Republic.

(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 3 April 1987)



Axel Springer Verlag AG, DIE WELT, Postfach 30 58 30, D 2000 Hamburg 36

■ THE HANOVER FAIR

Robots show how big their brains are growing

Roughly 20,000 industrial robots will be at work in the Federal Republic of Germany by the end of the decade, experts forecast. At present there are about 12,000, and German industry has almost drawn level with Japan and Sweden in robot density. In per capita terms the Federal Republic is slightly ahead of the United States. Progress can be seen from the number of robot exhibitors at the Hanover Fair: over twice as many this year as in 1983 and four times as many as in 1981.

A film being shown by a robot maker at the Hanover Fair shows a bodybuilder flexing muscles that bulge beneath his oily skin. Then comes a ballet dancer and, finally, the star of the show: an industrial robot.

The film commentary explains how much more brain and brawn robots have now.

A few years ago they had little more than the brute strength of a bodybuilder and were suitable only for hard but simple work.

They have now acquired the precision and the care and attention to detail of a prima ballerina.

And, the commentary says, these qualities are available at rate of just five marks an hour.

Robots are growing more intelligent all the time. Some projects involve attempts to make robots mobile by using tracks, wheels or legs. Others have made substantial headway in improving robots' sense of touch in handling items small, fragile or varying in size.

Some chocolate manufacturers have robots fill chocolates into boxes; the robots "know" from the shape of the chocolates on the production line where they fit in the box.

Robots are growing steadily better at seeing and recognising objects. They are also steadily developing the power of hearing.

These faculties are all important to enable robots one day to move around freely and on their own. Mobile robots need to be able to skirt any obstacles that are in their way.

Manufacturers are also investing heavily in improving and speeding up robots' programmes, especially by means of computer graphics.

Herr Stark of Augsburg robot manufacturers Kuka says every stage of development, from design to production, is first simulated three-dimensionally on a VDU.

Using computer graphics the workpiece, like the work location, can be viewed from any angle required on the monitor screen.

Project engineers can thus find out when a robot has work to do and which jobs need doing where.

"That makes long workshop trials unnecessary, reduces the time needed for programming and boosts flexibility," Herr Stark says. "What normally takes days can be done in a matter of minutes."



Brawn of a bodybuilder and daintiness of a ballerina . . . robots show how at Hanover. (Photo: Hanover Fair)

But he admits that developments are still at an early stage and that computerised techniques are not yet universally usable.

Peter Hölzl of Fürth manufacturers Manutec, a Siemens subsidiary with a payroll of 150, agrees. Computer programming still has such shortcomings, he says, that its uses are strictly limited.

The robot's great advantage over other electronically controlled devices is, in his view, that it can be reused to a much greater extent. A machine specially designed for a specific job is usually scrapped when that particular job is no longer required. Robots aren't.

Between 70 and 80 per cent of a robot can be reused once its programmes are rewritten for the new task. It may only need to be fitted out with new grabs or other tools.

Substantial changes are under way in retooling. Kuka exhibited at Hanover a robot that automatically switches tools in a matter of seconds. The robot on show could choose from four tools for the refit.

Another special feature of the Augsburg robot is that the power source is automatically selected too, with the robot making sure it has the right dosage of electric, hydraulic or pneumatic power and coolant for the new configuration.

Robots are growing so much more flexible, Hölzl says, that he is convinced they will increasingly be used by smaller and medium-sized firms.

So robots can be expected to make further individual headway. But this will

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

be only the main thrust of development; progress in other sectors is also on the cards. The factory of the future, a keynote of the 1987 Hanover Fair, is virtually inconceivable without robots.

What will it look like at the turn of the century? CIM, short for computer-integrated manufacturing, is the buzzword.

Leading electronics and mechanical engineering firms demonstrated in Hanover how they envisaged the shape of things to come.

Computer "islands" will be linked to form an integrated system in which data from one sector automatically trigger responses in another.

That is how Rüdiger Stubenrecht of ICL Germany in Nuremberg describes the objective: that of networking all production sectors and machinery via a single data system. Let us assume a customer places an order. The order is keyed into the computer, complete with details.

The development division draws up CAD construction plans, using the data supplied and producing a blueprint on the monitor screen.

The buying department is automatically relayed a list of parts to be requisitioned and places the orders.

Mobile robots collect the parts from the store as and when they are needed. The production machinery, arguably other robots, will be automatically programmed to assemble the items as ordered.

Still other automatic devices will bring the finished product to the computerised quality control department and from there to the despatch department.

This may be the shape of things to come, says Stubenrecht, but he feels it will be some time before it takes shape. "We are taking first steps in the right direction, but it will be 15 to 20 years before the system is complete."

Then, at least to begin with, he feels only newly-built factories will be fully computerised.

The entire production pattern needs to be geared to CIM computerisation. In existing factories conversion to CIM compatibility can only be gradual; first one production section, then the next.

Even gradual conversion will require a tremendous amount of effort and expense, strategic planning and data flow standardisation.

Will the Federal Republic be able to hold its own with America and Japan in this market of the future? Hölzl and Stubenrecht are both convinced it can.

"Technically," Hölzl says, "the Germans can hold their own in competition with anyone anywhere in the world." Exchange rates are the only problem, making German exports more expensive.

Stubenrecht feels the prospects for German firms are bright, particularly in respect of the combination of electronics and mechanical engineering.

"We have a splendid grounding," he says, "in the outstanding know-how of German mechanical engineering."

What rationalisation prospects may the unmanned factory of the future hold in store? Experts have looked into this side of matters too.

They expect costs to be cut by up to one third, production times to be reduced by up to 60 per cent and wastage to be halved.

That is bound to affect jobs, but Hölzl feels the effect will be nowhere near as serious as many people fear.

Automation will create new jobs, including an "enormous job potential" in the service sector. *Hans G. Lindner*

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 4 April 1987)

Meteorological stations all over the world

Länder und Klima AFRIKA BROCKHAUS
Länder und Klima EUROPA UdSSR BROCKHAUS
Länder und Klima ASIEN AUSTRALIEN BROCKHAUS
Länder und Klima NORD- UND SÜDAMERIKA BROCKHAUS

supplied the data arranged in see-at-a-glance tables in these new reference works. They include details of air and water temperature, precipitation, humidity, sunshine, physical stress of climate, wind conditions and frequency of thunderstorms.

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■ THE PERFORMING ARTS

Both boos and applause for an artistic parable

Saarbrücker Zeitung

Wolfgang Rihm's *Die Hamletmaschine*, a music drama in five parts, to a text by Heiner Müller, was commissioned by the Nationaltheater, Mannheim.

The cream of the music world turned up in Mannhein in force for the première, which was booed a great deal but equally applauded.

Die Hamletmaschine is an artistic parable, a political simile, but primarily an end game. It is a work without hope. All is over. In 1977, in fact. It is Müller's last work until now. It is the pinnacle of his achievement in my view.

It was a puzzle of associations, only between six to nine pages long.

At first it is incomprehensible.Then read, read, read. Understanding grows and grows. Heiner Müller said: "The members of the audience have to do the interpretation." There are any number of ways of interpreting the work. Each to his own.

There are seven Hamlets and eight Ophelias in Heiner Müller's original production. Rihm stipulates three Hamlets, an old actor (performed by Kurt Müller-Graf), a young Hamlet (Rudolf Kowalski, who also plays Shakespeare's title role in Mannheim, playing both extremely well), and a singer (baritone Johannes M. Kösters who gives an excellent performance).

The Müller/Rihm Hamlet is a cynical dropout, a spoilsport, who does not want to do anything anymore, loathing the world, loathing himself.

He has a compulsive nostalgia for the end, for a world without mothers.

He proclaims that he is one of the privileged. He claims he is an East (German) intellectual.

This Hamlet says that he stands on both sides in the rebellion, in the revolt, when the Stalin monument tips over time and time again in the Friedrich Meyer-Oertel production in Mannheim.

The rulers exude the stench of their anxiety. There are traces of the sweat of the masses.

One Hamlet would like to be a women and gets dressed up as Ophelia. He wants to be much, but is nothing at all.

Finally he splits the skull, as a "clown in the communist spring," the three ultra-fathers, Marx, Lenin and Mao are three naked women.

Hamlet is a figure from the theatre, whose act is no longer played, he functions just a machine from disgust at himself and his own thinking.

A flying-machine is incompetent to lift off the earth — that is also a major director's metaphor.

Hamlet, incompetent to do anything, even to change. Hamlet, who would prefer to return home to his mother's womb. In the end he simply crumples.

Ophelia is quite different. She is the active side. She is the one in revolt. She is the one who calls for action. She has the characteristics of a terrorist, standing up for the down-trodden where possible, women, the Third World.

Ophelia = Elektra = Rosa Luxembourg = Ulrike Meinhof = Susan Etkins of the Charles Manson family, whose last words were: "If you go through your bedrooms with a kitchen knife you will know the truth."

So the end game-tragedy, the end game-deliverance from a blood-bath.

In the Müller/Rihm piece Ophelia sits in the deep sea, in a wheel-chair, tied-up tightly with gauze bandages.

She is inaudible, without echo, condemned to ineffectiveness. The world goes on living above her.

She loathes the world as well. "I suffocate the world between my thighs, the world that I have given birth to."

But the world also suffocates her. The one without hope is seldom shown as one with a potential for hope.

In Mannheim there was no deep sea, no rubbish and parts of corpses. Instead there is a factory shed, the plane hangar, in whose plainness the end game is teased out to the end, moves closer to Ophelia, encloses her and crushes her. Macabre end of hope despite all.

Hamletmaschine gets more and more like a piece about Ophelia. By Müller, completed by Rihm.

Ophelia sings out, over two and a half octaves. Outbursts, soaring, emphases, which, in Rihm's words, "shake the railings."

The critic who says that Gabriele Schnaut is fabulous in Mannheim is guilty of an understatement.

Her devotion to the character is magnificent. Around her in the last scene there is women's music, women's choirs on all sides, three Ophelia-doubles in evening dress. The "highest" is Carmen Fuggis, true in the upper register. It is impossible to go higher.

A composer glances at powerlessness, therefore the music is funeral and music for Christ's Passion.

Rihm's music is all sound, violent, unruly sound. The orchestra was made up of more than 100 instruments. The attacks of the percussion filled the house. The blasts of the brass were almost painful on the ear.

This music nests in the words, bores away in the action, it thumps and hammers, and flickers nervously.

The music is violence and tenderness at one and the same time. It is the utmost in brutality, juxtaposed to tender

Continued on page 13



Making sense out of absurdity. Jean-Laurent Sasportes in *Ahnen*.
(Photo: Ulli...)

In revolt amid the sweat of the masses . . . In *Die Hamletmaschine*.
(Photo: Hans Jörg Michel)

When the unavoidable is set against the unavoidable

Pina Bausch's latest dance production, premièred in Wuppertal, is entitled *Ahnen*.

The meaning of the piece seems to have been left open. Does the title mean "ancestors" or presentiments of something that remains hidden from superficial contemplation? Both fit.

Pina Bausch demonstrates the sources of the simple life that has always been and still exists today.

She mobilises our fantasy in which she sets the unavoidable against the unavoidable, the unepected, the absurd. Apparent inevitabilities are burst. Absurdity eventually becomes sense.

Why does a washerwomen laboriously take to her work gauntlets? Why doesn't a man who wants to speak take the orange out of his mouth, that prevents him from doing so?

Why does a woman stick her dress to the floor, just to be able to slip out of it easily, then pull it up and walk away?

We are scandalised by the incomprehensible motives behind the scenes and actions. A women shakes bird-feed over herself, a girl furiously polishes the floor with her hair, while throwing lighted matches in the air.

A man takes off his shoes, sits on a stool, is lifted up a short way and goes promptly off. Why? It is an extremely pointed symbol for inexplicible human behaviour. It is not all arbitrary but sessional.

Pina Bausch's *Ahnen* is played out in a magnificent landscape. Peter Pabst has created a fantastic garden of cacti in the back ground a sandy beach on which a seal rests.

A woman, working like mad, tries in vain to set up walls. The protagonists are not bothered by the prickles and thorns.

Pina Bausch favours the collage form, letting various actions take place simultaneously. The contents indicate a new direction, however. The emphasis is no longer on frustration and aggression but the loneliness of the individual and the desire to be loved. Cheerfulness pervades the scenes.

It is true that a man stuffs his wife like a fattened goose, but such tormenting only occurs on the periphery. Life is jolly and hectic. Indian riders are comically mimicked.

Ann Endicott has returned to the ensemble from Australia. She dances with a dual costume on her hands and feet as if she had a partner.

Dominique Mercy sings *Carmen* as if she were a patient in a sanatorium, hilariously translated by Lutz Förster, providing a biting commentary on love.

The scenes are opulent with colour, thanks to the magnificent costumes from Marion Cito.

As ever there is plenty of nonsense business. There is no lack of squads of men and women juggling funnily together. Individuals drop out and rejoin the group fussily, a couple dancer together, sometimes with stony faces, sometimes funny.

For a moment a helicopter whirls threateningly above the scene, spreading chemicals, forcing the dancers to flee.

Pina Bausch's new piece is rich in theatrical effects. It is fascinating particularly in the serious passages, the shattering realities of human feelings.

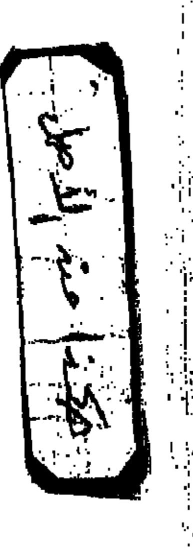
Various perspectives of a movement of an action become symbols of the relativity of life.

The music is rich in its range from Montverdi to Ella Fitzgerald, particularly a large choice of music from Africa and southern Europe. Francis Vet is again there playing sadly on his saxophon.

After the interval the piece, lasting two and three quarter hours, lost its dramatic drive. There were no new ideas and the repeats did not give the whole a strong structure.

Helmut Schreier

(Bremer Nachrichten, 2 April 1987)



■ MUSIC

The violin, a musical instrument, a collector's item and a work of art

No record exists of how much restorer Jean-Baptiste Guillaume paid for the Stradivarius in the first half of the 19th century.

But he sold it to a man named Meier for 6,500 francs, who in his turn sold it in 1868 for £200.

In 1875 it was purchased by Mr John Adam for £625, and in 1882 it again changed hands for £1,000.

After many more owners it was sold again in 1967 for 100,000 dollars.

It is now estimated to have a value over a million dollars.

The Strad is, of course, a violin, made by Antonio Stradivari (Latinised to Stradivarius) who lived from about 1644 to 1737.

Violins, violas and violin-cellos, the whole string family of instruments in fact, are different from other musical instruments because they have no mechnical parts.

It is estimated that it takes a good violin between 20 to 70 years to reach its maturity of tone.

The violin was fully developed by the 19th century. There is one fact that hinders instruments made in this period from fetching high prices at auctions: The best violins in the history of the instrument were made in the 150 years between 1600 and 1750 and within the northern Italian city of Cremona.

The instruments made by the craftsmen of this city are the dearest in the world. Top-class instruments change hands for millions of dollars — a music conservatory could equip itself with all the grand pianos it needed with such sums of money.

The question is whether these instruments are really worth these high prices.

Rainer Kussmaul, violin professor in Freiburg and violinist in the famous Stuttgart Piano Trio, said: "The price for old violins is unnaturally high."

Kussmaul owns and plays two violins, one made by Andrea Guarneri, founder of the school of violin-makers that bears his name, currently valued at DM250,000, and a copy of a violin made by Guarneri del Gesù, the famous member of the family.

The copy was made by an American violin-maker and cost $6,000 eleven years ago.

Kussmaul said: "My colleagues and I all think this copy is a wonderful instrument. A layman would not be able to tell the difference, so much so that a famous colleage of mine believed it was a genuine del Gesù — it was three months old at the time."

To demonstrate that the copy was equal in tone to the other violin he played the same Bach partita on both, without saying which was the original and which the copy.

I declined to take part in the test. I'm no expert. If you are not used to listening closely to the tone you quickly lose your ability to differentiate.

The test was repeated and I must admit that the original had a trace of softness and sweetness to it. The copy sounded harder and more direct.

Kussmaul explained that after a concert when he had played the copy and people asked him what instrument he had used he always said the Guarneri del Gesù. "I omit to mention the copy business."

No one has so far questioned this and among those who have asked him about the instrument there have been some experts.

It is not just the tone. There is in Baden-Württemberg a state collection of instruments. Purchases of splendid instruments are made for the collection which are made available to young musicians free of charge.

The decisive factor with these instruments, mostly violins, is their tone. When an instrument is being considered for purchase it is played behind a curtain and assessed by a commission of experts.

Hans Schicker, a member of the commission and himself a violin-maker, said: "There have been times that seven Stradivarius instruments have lost against an instrument made by a relatively unknown violin-maker of the 18th century."

Schicker had no difficulty in explaining the enormous price differences between Stradivarius violins and instruments made by unknown masters of the same period, or the even greater price difference between new and old violins.

He said: "Great violins of the 18th century are works of art, they represent western culture."

He does not believe that these violins are unjustifiably held in high esteem. He pointed out that for a small Rembrandt astronomical sums were paid. "Why not for a violin then, which in its way is just as perfect?" he asked.

The second basic difference with other instruments is that every violin is individual. A specialist not only knows who made the violin but recognises the special features of the period in which it was made. This is particularly true of Stradivari violins.

Violins have their own personality. Virtuoso violinist Henryk Szeryng said

Hannoversche Allgemeine

that he could talk to his violin, scold the instrument and complain to it. Kussmaul said the same thing. "There are days when the instrument is perverse. It squeaks all the time," he said.

Although there are physical explanations of this, humidity changes, for instance, that affects the wood, it is true that a violinist has a relationship with his violin quite unlike the relationship any other musician has to his instrument.

No one has had the idea of giving a piano or an oboe a name — it is usual with violins made by Stradivarius or Guarneri.

Many are named after their previous owners — the Paganini Violin, King Maximilian Violin; some the place where they are kept, such as Cremona Violin, Modena Violin, or after their appearance, such as the Ruby Violin or the Red Diamond Violin.

One violin was re-named. It was previously called after its owner, the Salabue Violin, until the violin dealer and fantatical collector Luigi Tariso bought it.

For ages he promised to bring the violin to Paris and display it in public until a colleague said to him: "Your Stradivarius is like the Messiah — he never comes." The violin, one of the most prized violins to be made by Antonio Stradivari, was called from then on the Messiah Violin.

It is not only the tone that gives violins from Amati, Guarneri and Stradivari their great value — to name the three most famous violin-makers from Cremona. But it is true that these instruments possess a most individual tone, like nothing else on earth. Neither chemical analysis nor electronic measurements have been able to reveal its source.

For a long time it was assumed that the lacquer on these famous violins was responsible for their special tone. This is possible because with all the possibilities available to a modern violin-maker it has not been able to reconstruct exactly the lacquer used.

Hans Schicker said: "That is not surprising. Some of the constituents of this lacquer have disappeared totally. A little while ago three French chemists were given the opportunity to take a Stradivarius violin apart to analyse the lacquer. They found out nothing, but the violin was finished."

The latest explanation of the tone quality comes from the American scientist Josph Nagyvari. He says that mould has removed the resin from the wood so making it lighter and drier.

Schicker himself believes that earlier other factors combined. Apart from the lacquer the wood plays an important role in the construction of these violins, less because of mould than the fact that the wood that Stadivari used is no longer available.

Schicker said: "Climatic conditions in Italy are no longer the same as they were 250 years ago."

To this can be added a violin's natural maturing process, which cannot be artificially accelerated.

This has been tried but the results have been disastrous. The wood of these instruments, called in the trade "baked violins," is totally dried out and brittle.

All the experiments in the world do not alter the fact that violins from Cremona cannot be reproduced. It is estimated that Antonio Stradivari made 1,200 instruments, of which about 550 still exist. It is impossible to be more exact because in some cases there are doubts about an instrument's genuineness.

The number of Stradivarius violins that have survived is high because they have always fetched high prices and so have been handled with care over the years.

The violin's greatest enemies are accidents and mishandling. These days these hazards have been reduced — no matter what happens to a Strad it is always repaired.

Rainer Kussmaul tells the story of an unfortunate man who accidently drove his car over his Stradivarius. Hans Schicker saw the 'cello parts in a cardboard box, but it was put together.

The value of the violin makes it worthwhile to repair them, and the repairer-restorer's art makes it possible. Repairs can be done so perfectly, in fact, that experts are often unable to detect that an instrument was once totally useless.

But what about the tone, can that be restored? Hans Schicker said: "It is incredible how restored instruments recover within a few years." Schicker speaks of a violin in the same way he would speak of a living being. He said: "The cells live still, they take in humidity and relinquish it. A violin is dead if this process no longer takes place. The violin is then only a piece of beautiful sculpture. But no one knows how long that lasts. This point has not been reached by the great Cremona violins."

Almost all the Cremona violins changed their tone in the 19th century. They were made with a longer neck and the bass-bar inside was strengthened. These alterations were done to give these instruments a tone appropriate for performances in a concert hall.

The body of the violin remained unchanged — approximately 270 grams of wood and lacquer, far more valuable today than its weight in gold. A truly genuine Stradivarius violin, quite unchanged, could hardly be used today.

The enormous prices paid for old violins attracts not only rich collectors and violin lovers but also speculators. Over the past few years Cremona violins have been very profitable investments. The violin that Rainer Kussmaul bought in 1980 for DM160,000 has increased in value by DM100,000 in the meantime.

The times are long past when it was possible to pick up an old Stradivarius violin in a flea market. That actually happened in New York in 1977. But it is still possible to do the occasional bit of good business.

Rainer Kussmaul said: "An old Italian violin was offered to me for DM30,000. I did not want it because I did not like its tone. A woman colleague of mine bought it and went with it to a violinmaker. It was valued at DM85,000."

Sums of this kind make deals for shady instruments attractive. Violins are much loved objects for thieves and forgers. In 1908, for instance, a famous Stradivarius violin was stolen from a clockroom in St Petersburg. It belonged to Eugene Ysaye, who was playing in the nearby concert hall on a less famous Guarneri del Gesù at the time. His Stradivarius has never been found.

It is easy to falsify the violin's certificate of origin, which the violin-maker sticks in the violin as a kind of birth certificate.

Luigi Tarisio, who was regarded by the circles he moved in with his Messiah Violin as a fool, was also rumoured to be a forger. He altered the attribution in the certificates on instruments to famous instrument makers.

Perhaps the most famous victim of the instrument forger was Benito Mussolini. He had a much-loved violin in which there was a note declaring "Nicolo Amati, 1646." It was known in expert circles that the violin had been made by a less famous Amati, but no one dared draw the Duce's attention to this.

The same is true of pictures by great masters. The price for violins, as with pictures, soars into the millions if they come from the right hand. The name of the artist pushes up the price.

With violins as with pictures anecdotes and legends are spread and attempts are made in vain to penetrate secrets. Violins are stolen and forged. A great violin has an aura about it.

Hans Schicker said: "A buyer does not pay two million marks just for the tone, but also for a work of art."

Unlike pictures, however, a violin is an object that can be used, an instrument there to make music.

The violin has a dual existence in the

Continued on page 12

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Another warning about the hothouse effect



Climate research scientists again warned the 51st conference of the German Physics Society (DPG) in Berlin of the risk of a hothouse effect in the atmosphere due to the growing output of carbon dioxide and trace gases.

Professor Jochen Fricke of Würzburg University said that if atmospheric levels of these gases continued to increase at their present rate the average atmospheric temperature would increase by between three and nine degrees centigrade in the next 100 years.

Professor Fricke heads the DPG's energy working party. This hothouse effect could, he said, bring about substantial changes in the world's climate.

He feels a reappraisal of energy policy is essential if the hothouse effect is to be forestalled.

No more than one third of the world's fossil fuel reserves must be burnt. Their combustion generates the CO_2 that is mainly to blame for heating the atmosphere.

Other culprits are trace gases such as chlorine and fluorine hydrocarbons used as spraycan gas and methane, which is generated from agricultural fertiliser.

The emphasis must be on energy sources such as atomic energy and solar power, neither of which release substances that are harmful to the atmosphere.

If the public had to foot the bill for the harmful consequences of energy production, he told a DPG press conference, fuel and power would prove far more expensive than at present.

DPG president Professor Joachim Trümper feels it is high time politicians tackled the problem, and the sooner the better. In 20 years it will, in all probability, be too late to contain it.

He noted that the DPG had first drawn attention to the CO_2 problem four years ago. But past appeals had met with little response.

Over 1,500 German and Austrian physicists attended the Berlin conference, which dealt mainly with atmospheric research and biophysics. Scientists reviewed the latest developments in plant photosynthesis research.

Professor Walter Junge of Osnabrück University told delegates that scientists were probing the processes by which nature generated energy. Little was known about photosynthesis, by which sunlight was converted into high-energy compounds of organic molecules.

So it would probably be a long time before man could harness the process to generate energy.

Physicists also dealt, in numerous lectures and debates, with solar energy, reactor safety, marine technology, laser physics, the didactics of physics, space research and scientific issues relating to the American SDI project.

The annual DPG awards were presented at a special session, with the highest award, the Max Planck Medal, going to Professor Julius Wess, an Austrian who now works at Karlsruhe University.

The award was made in recognition of his contribution toward research into the symmetry of elementary particles.

This work, dating back to the 1970s, has gained international acclaim and led to the enlargement of existing theories in various sectors.

The Max Planck Medal was endowed in 1929 and first awarded to Max Planck and Albert Einstein.

Professor Trümper said all colleagues must feel encouraged by the fact that German physicists had been awarded the Nobel Prize for the past three years.

Yet German physics had maintained high standards in the decades when Nobel Prizes did not come its way. It must now make sure this standard is maintained and improved on.

Professor Trümper, who works at the Max Planck Institute for Extra-Terrestrial Physics near Munich, stressed the high standards of German space research.

He noted that scientists were mainly interested in space systems that could be put to meaningful research use.

Too much must not be invested in mere carrier systems. Funds must also be available for scientific and economic uses, such as observation and communication satellites.

From a scientific viewpoint manned space travel was not absolutely essential. Experience had shown that research into extra-terrestrial physics could be carried out by unmanned systems.

Time — and practical experience in the decades ahead — would tell whether manned or unmanned space research was more important.

Ludwig Kürten

(Die Welt, Bonn, 2 April 1987)

Data bank to help in mopping up chemical, toxic spillages

Frankfurter Allgemeine

An electronic brain at the Environmental Protection Agency in Berlin is being fed with data to supply police, fire brigade and other rescue workers at the scene of an accident with an emergency briefing on chemicals and harmful substances.

It will be part of the information system for environmental chemicals, chemical plant and accidents being set up in Berlin to provide instant information on hazardous goods and substances.

When accidents or disasters occur it is essential to know within the first half hour what substances are involved, how dangerous they are and how to handle them.

Professional, city fire brigades are usually well equipped with computer terminals at which they can retrieve information from specialised data banks. This is not the case in more sparsely-populated areas.

In a test run simple devices are first to be installed countrywide to enable emergency services to call on round-the-clock information from a central computer at the Environmental Protection Agency.

The computer listing includes the name of the substance, its danger rating, transport regulations, appearance, behaviour in air and water, health hazard, security measures, first aid procedures and how to deal with the consequences of an accident.

The system is initially designed for first aid to the injured at the scene of the accident, but its data will also be useful in subsequent environmental measures when more detailed scientific information is needed about the most important chemicals.

Professor Jürgen Seggelke, EPA head of department in charge of the project, suggested on unveiling the system in Bonn that the growing number of personal computers in the public service, industry and private homes might be linked to data networks and fitted out with a "catastrophe key."

In the event of an accident any personal computer would then have access to essential information.

Starting next winter a smog early warning system commissioned by the Standing Conference of Environment Ministers and set up by the Berlin EPA will go into operation.

As 50 per cent of atmospheric toxins and often more, are from other countries, especially from the East, measuring stations near the border are particularly important as part of the atmospheric measurement network maintained by the Federal government and the *Länder*.

Aircraft are to fly sorties when required, weather permitting, at various altitudes to take measurements and identify approaching toxic clouds.

The data they record, relayed to ground stations and computers, will be compared with and added to readings from the *Länder*, which are to be supplied with extra equipment.

Results will be flashed back to the *Länder* within an hour for them to declare a smog emergency if need be.

The central EPA computer will also house a smog data bank from which a smog chart of the Federal Republic is compiled.

Mathematical models are also to be used to predict trends and make smog forecasts.

As the use of data banks still leaves much to be desired, the EPA's environmental planning and information system has devised a "shell" model for various user groups.

Since mid-1986 it has facilitated a simple dialogue and the number of users has increased more than tenfold. A simple graphic dialogue is envisaged for the smog early warning system.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 1 April 1987)

Continued from page 11

eyes of the taxman. It is impossible to classify it as an instrument for use or a valuable work of art. Or perhaps it is possible to do that.

Violin insurance can be set off against tax liability, but not the violin itself, even for a professional violinist.

Tax officials have answered the question whether the violin is or is not a work of art with a definite yes.

Stephan Hoffmann

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 21 March 1987)

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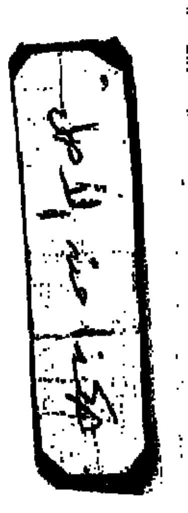
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■ MEDICINE

Trade fair unveils new gadgetry for doctors

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

An electrocardiogram at the doctor's can take a long time if the preliminary consultation and waiting time are included.

In the research and technology hall at this year's Hanover Industrial Fair it took little longer than the act of sitting down. Seconds later, visitors saw their ECG ratings on the monitor screen.

A doctor tore off a printout, a strip of graph paper, from the device and handed it over as a souvenir.

Professor Franz Bender of Münster University medical faculty demonstrated with this simple yet surprising device that technological aids for doctor and patient need not always be complex.

His invention, devised in collaboration with a physicist, is basically an almost self-evident simplification. In touching the steel arms of the chair the patient relays his ECG readings to the monitor, which is a conventional ECG unit.

So the doctor can see and analyse a cardiac rhythm irregularity while talking with the patient.

He can do so almost unnoticed, using infra-red controls to operate the monitor and the ECG plotter.

The patient can look at his own ECG on the monitor screen before it is printed out.

The procedure will save both doctor and patient time-wasting and often expensive procedures.

The ECG chair, which was noted with interest by other exhibitors in the research and development hall at Hanover and was seldom empty, can be moved around and used as needed.

At the next table another exhibit from the Münster medical faculty looks at first glance like an infra-red remote control device of the kind used to switch on TV sets or hifi equipment.

But there is no programme choice. The purpose is one for which no choice is needed: to prevent heart attacks.

Existing early warning techniques have not been really effective, but doctors now know there are clearly definable risk factors that identify patients in danger of suffering heart attacks.

These individual factors are also known to be inter-related. It is not enough to eliminate just one of them, such as smoking.

From cardiac checks on roughly 20,000 patients in Westphalia and the Ruhr research staff at Münster University departments of arteriosclerosis research, clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine have devised new and practice-related heart risk early-warning concepts.

Their work is known as the Procam Study, short for Münster Prospective Cardiovascular Study.

The result of this study for the general practitioner is a "pocket calculator" devised by Professor Gerd Assmann and Dr Helmut Schulte.

The doctor keys into the calculator specific findings relating to the patient, such as high blood pressure and heart attack incidence in the family, and is lent, at the touch of a button, invaluable diagnostic assistance.

The cardiac risk ready reckoner, a miniature expert system (if you prefer the term), was constructed in conjunction with Boehringer of Mannheim.

Doctors are not alone in realising that conventional X-ray exposures can be difficult to read unless they are enlarged; patients are also aware of the fact — once a mistaken diagnosis has been made.

In the materials testing laboratory a new X-ray tube developed by Fein-Focus has been tried and tested. It is the first cathode-ray tube of its kind that can be used for direct and powerful X-ray enlargements.

At Hanover the Münster University medics exhibited initial experiments with X-ray enlargements of the human auditory ossicle.

It was the first time anatomical structures had been clearly recognisable when enlarged more than sixtyfold. Conventional X-ray enlargements are blurred by the time they reach this power of magnification.

The new high-grade enlargements make it possible to X-ray the smallest portions of bone in hand and finger joints. The technique could prove a new and promising diagnostic aid.

Uses are at present being probed by a Münster University working party including radiologists, surgeons, orthopaedic specialists, pathologists and ear, nose and throat doctors.

Following research into the technique's uses in experimental and clinical medicine the new X-ray enlargement process is now being checked to see what use it might be in biology and palaeontology.

A Heidelberg University exhibit demonstrated the role lasers have to pay in bio-medicine and cancer research. It was a complex laser micro-ray device capable of generating laser beams at different frequencies.

It can be used to merge two cells of different size and character under the microscope. Cell membranes melt after a few impulses of the laser beam and the two cells are fused into one.

The Heidelberg biomedics hope this process will one day enable them to produce antibodies in bulk. The lymphatic cells of a mouse immunised with an antigen are known to produce antibodies that fight this antigen.

These cells cannot be sustained in culture, however. So the new laser device is used to fuse the lymphatic cells with a long-lived cancer cell and produce antibodies.

Manfred Schmidt

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 4 April 1987)

Continued from page 10

piano passages. It is music that commingles, that grabs, expressive, explosive, certainly not yielding.

Rihm, like Müller, reaches back into the past, makes use of Shakespeare, Hölderlin and himself.

The first scene is *Familienalbum*, with the small-paced procession of the corpse of the father; the murderer, another Richard III, who "covers" the widow on the coffin. Rihm described this scene as an "act like opera."

He composed here an aria for Hamlet "like Handel." At certain passages it sounds like Purcell, like Stravinsky, like Verdi.

Rihm rises to the peak, above his material like a sovereign. But where musical understanding should have been essential, it prevents, hinders understanding.

The performance is the fascinating result of what an opera house and its manager, such as Mannheim and general manager Peter Schneider, can do when they pour all their resources into a work they believe in. The performance used the Nationaltheater's total orchestral and choral forces.

There are scenes that cannot be mounted, such as the entrance of the dead women, undressing Hamlet and the trans-sexuality, all this is hinted at, pretended.

But in the end it is yet another Hamlet revue, Hamlet show, ironic pointing to the model of ironic potential.

The Mannheim production does not hold back in text, music or stage production. But it is difficult, very difficult. It is not enough to see it just once.

Heinz W. Koch

(Saarbrucker Zeitung, 4 April 1987)

Algae skeletons pass tests as bone-substitute material

Kiel University research scientists have developed a new, biological bone substitute based on the skeletons of certain calcareous algae from the mud-flats off the North Sea island of Heligoland.

The University has announced that the three scientists have been granted a patent by the German Patent Office in Munich for their material, which is almost identical with human bone in its properties.

It has proved most suitable as a bone substitute in trials carried out at the Kiel University Hospital's dental surgery ward.

The algae were found to be suitable as a raw material for bone substitute by oral and cosmetic surgeons Professor Rolf Ewers and Dr Christian Kasperk.

The material was processed by Dr Bruno Simons of the university's department of mineralogy and petrography.

Human bones and teeth consist of a phosphate corresponding in their atomic and molecular structure to a mineral, hydroxylapatite.

Surgeons have relied for some time on synthetic hydroxylapatite as a bone substitute. But research scientists had failed to devise a bone substitute with the natural porosity of bone.

The mud-flats off Heligoland contain marine algae with skeletons consisting of calcium carbonate. They are criss-crossed by microscopic channels between five and ten micrometres in diameter. Their surface texture and consistency closely resemble those of human bone.

The calcium carbonate is converted into hydroxylapatite by means of a special chemical process. The resulting porous material is further processed to make it stable yet capable of being shaped. *dpa*

(Bremer Nachrichten, 2 April 1987)

Hope for Aids vaccine reported

Doctors at Düsseldorf University Hospital report initial success in fighting Aids. A serum gained from patients' own blood cells has helped 14 of them to recover sufficiently to go back to work.

The *Deutsches Ärzteblatt*, an official medical journal, printed a report at the end of March. It was the first public mention of the new Aids vaccine.

Düsseldorf University department of blood coagulation and transfusion medicine, headed by Professor Herbert Brüster, is said to have brought about a crucial improvement for Aids patients.

Parts of the Aids virus are extracted from the patient's white blood corpuscles and changed so as to serve as a vaccine to boost the body's immune system.

Aids patients' immune systems are so weak that they are otherwise liable to fall fatally ill with complaints that are normally harmless.

Patients were treated with their own serum for two years. Serious symptoms such as shingles, inflamed lymphatic glands and the like disappeared.

The article notes, however, that a sceptical view must still, at the present stage, be taken of the new technique.

Patients treated in this way cannot be classified as cured or free from the Aids virus, but the rapid decline in their health is brought to a halt. "Patients go back to work," says Professor Brüster. "The results are most encouraging."

He and his associates Barbara M. E. Kuntze and Johann W. Scheja have now made a first public announcement about their work.

Their success cannot yet be generalised because they lack funds for large-scale research and trials with a larger number of Aids victims.

"Without going into details of the course the disease took in individual cases," Professor Brüster says, "all patients can be said to be much better and to no longer suffer from serious ancillary complaints.

"They have all gone back to work, which cannot be said of three other patients identified as Aids victims at the same time but not treated in this way."

It is not yet clear whether the vaccine improves the skin cancer, known as the Kaposi sarcoma, from which many Aids victims suffer and die. "A final opinion is not yet possible," the medical journal concludes, "on the extent to which the Kaposi sarcoma is influenced."

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 27 March 1987)

Medical drugs pose road risk

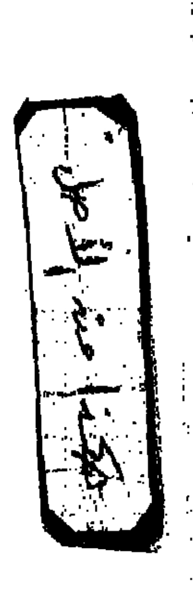
Driving under the influence of medicine is to blame for at least one traffic accident in four. Woman are twice as often involved as men.

Experts feel the real number is much higher, the annual congress of the German Traffic Medicine Society was told in Münster. With a blood alcohol count of less than 80 milligrams accidents occur three times more often when medical drugs are involved, the experts said.

Between 80 and 130 milligrams the accident frequency under the influence of medicine increases from 22 to 37 per cent.

Undesirable side-effects are known to result not only from taking sedatives, painkillers and tranquillisers but also from medicines taken to treat high blood pressure. *dpa*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 6 April 1987)



■ RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Author argues that the Romans, not the Jews, killed Christ

DIE ZEIT

Many Christian bookshops are refusing to stock a book by a Freiburg lawyer, Weddig Fricke: they are afraid that it will lose them customers.

Fricke's book, *Standrechtlich gekreuzigt. Der Process Jesu* (Summary execution. The trial of Jesus) takes traditional beliefs about the crucifixion and turns them on their heads.

Fricke is a layman but an experienced defence counsel. He uses modern language to put his case: that it was the Romans and not the Jews who tried, sentenced and executed Jesus Christ.

He has spent six years using his legal training and instincts to tear away what he regards as a fabric of historical errors.

It is strange that this is the first time that any legal expert from any Christian culture has tackled this sensitive topic. One would have thought that they would be ideal for the task.

The life and crucifixion of Jesus Christ has largely remained the preserve of the theologians, and they have made sure for about 1,950 years that their own faiths and churches have gained by their findings.

Historical truth has, finds Fricke, either consciously or unconsciously, taken a back seat to these ideological priorities. This use of history began at the beginning, when Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wrote the Gospels. The Apostles continued it and so did the early elders of the Christian church.

This process of prettifying the life and works of Christ went so far that in the 19th century, a great many scientists actually assumed that Christ was not a historical figure.

But today it is these very inconsistencies in the gospels which indicate that there was a temporal being called Jesus Christ and that he was indeed tried before a hearing.

So what drove a busy lawyer to write such a book? In the 1970s, Fricke defended an apparently respected member of the community, a locksmith, who shot eight Jews for no reason in a concentration camp in 1942.

The man was jailed for life and the case caused the lawyer to think about why it had happened, why a man could commit such a crime with the connivance and even approval of the State and society.

He began investigating anti-semitism, which he calls anti-Judaism, and his path led back to the very beginnings, to the authors of the New Testament.

Here the idea developed about the guilt of the Jews for the death of Christ. Matthew, for example, wrote about the Jews cursing themselves for his death. Fricke says the gospels all have a strong, general anti-Jewish attitude.

And so, he deduces, Christians everywhere have ever since had their basis for the persecution of Jews, a persecution that sometimes spilled over into killing.

He points out that even after the mass murder of the Third Reich, the churches have moved only half-heartedly away from this stance.

Fricke's idea is not new. For a long time, they have been suggested by a few historians and theologians. What is new is Fricke's hard line of reasoning, his assiduous exposition of the historical "absurdities".

Also new is his line of attack as a legal historian, his sharp penetration of the inconsistencies.

Then he documented in great detail how Jesus was murdered not by the Jews but by the Romans. Pontius Pilate was no mild Roman procurator but a cruel despot who the Jews despised and hated.

The crucifixion was a typical Roman form of capital punishment, not a Jewish one.

Christ was falsely tried in a summary hearing by Pilate as an agitator, as an enemy of the Roman State, and afterwards executed. The torture of the slow death was a taken-for-granted additional punishment.

It was not highest Jewish body, the Sanhedrin, which sentenced and executed Jesus, although it was within its powers to do so. It was Pontius Pilate, acting on his own authority, says the book.

Fricke says there are no known cases where a case being handled by the Jews was taken over by the Romans. The occupying power did not mix in the internal and religious doings of the occupied land.

But the Romans had become aware of Jesus because of his spectacular entry into Jerusalem which caused a highly visible sensation.

Jesus came from the rebellious Galilea, an area which tended to favour violence against the Romans. So the religious zealots were also regarded by the Romans as possible agitators as well. Terrorism was something the Romans had to face almost everywhere they had conquered.

The two who were crucified with Christ were also resistance fighters. In the hurry of the trial, Pilate was not interested in the fact that Jesus had everywhere preached peace. Such fiddling details were not relevant in dealing with enemies of Caesar.

The treachery of Judas leading to the arrest of Jesus, says the book, has been greatly exaggerated by the gospels. All that Judas did was identify Jesus when the military came to arrest him. So Judas became a *Leitfigur* for anti-semitism and a symbol of damnation. What role the Jewish authorities played in all this is not easy to see, says Fricke. He says it is possible that they might have made a small contribution to try and obtain some political peace in the region. But the murder itself was a Roman doing, says Fricke. A proper formal court trial before the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem never took place: nowhere apart from the gospels is a double Jewish-Roman hearing of this sort mentioned, although it would have been a sensational exception — and therefore something that one would expect to be written about.



Albrecht Dürer's portrayal of Pontius Pilate showing a tortured Jesus to the Jews. (Photo: catalogue)

Trials on holy days were banned under Judaism. But Jesus' trial was, according to the evidence, on Passover Seder. Jewish trials were also supposed to be held only during the day. Yet Jesus' is said to have been at night.

Neither was the trial a public one, as laid down — instead he is supposed to have been tried in a private house of the high priest. Neither was the sentence made public the following day as required.

Again in contradiction of Jewish law, Jesus was sentenced because of an allegation not subject to a proper charge or substantiated by witnesses. Yet here supposedly is the allegation instead being levelled by the president of the court during the hearing.

Jesus' admission was also too weak to stand up according to Jewish law. In contrast to Roman law, two witnesses were required to support a charge of heresy.

It was untrue, says Fricke, what many theologians say: that the Jews had cleverly let the original charge — offences against religious law — drop and allow in its place a political charge to be levelled.

The aim of this tactic is said to have been to get the trial turned over to the Romans. Fricke says the Pilate had Jesus sentenced of his own will and under Roman powers. The sentence and execution was a Roman affair.

So how is it that these mistakes have been made? How is it that the Romans were excused to the disadvantage of the Jews by the early Christian chroniclers? Fricke makes a plausible case that the Jews' role was invented to make Christianity acceptable to the Romans.

The gospels appear to have been written as the Christian sect — in the first generation a purely Jewish sect — broke away from Judaism and, in doing so, came into conflict. Fricke writes: "All the gospels have a general and strong anti-Jewish attitude."

The so-called Hellenic school instigated by St Paul got the upper hand

After the victory of Rome over the rebelling Israel in AD70, which was tragic for the Jews, the Christian faith founders, the Nazareans, lost their influence.

The Christians who had left Israel took the side of the Romans. They saw no chance for their own faith if their own founder were to continue to be regarded as an agitator and enemy of the state and who, for these reasons, had been executed.

Fricke writes: "Jesus stood loyal to Rome, and so do we."

And so, he concludes, the Jews have artificially been made an enemy of Christendom because they were the enemy of Rome.

The mistake lives on today, Fricke says. At the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church first took a step away from the term "God murder", but it did so only with great coyness.

Fricke quotes Jewish theologian Pinchas Lapide, who says that anybody who has read the many Papal Bulls and church documents on the subject and the references to "hordes of God-murdering Jews", and of the "defiled sects of God murderers", and of "Cain, the pro-

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Continued from page 7

ed by process heat from nuclear reactors.

Soviet research engineers and scientists will unquestionably have devised and tested components of their own, so the high-temperature reactor project is a text-book example of a promising East-West joint venture.

The Soviet Union would need to invest heavily in reactor construction and supplies, so the cost to the West could be limited.

Soviet Union obsession of not spending a penny in foreign exchange unless absolutely necessary has almost gained the status of a Leninist dogma.

The Kremlin evidently has no hopes of a repetition of the export miracle that enabled it to invest heavily in Western technology on the proceeds of high oil and natural gas prices.

No-one who wants to stay in business with the Soviet Union can resist in the long run pressure to set up joint ventures. Western company representatives in Moscow are as agreed on this point as they are on the terms currently on offer being appalling.

While Western companies eye the enormous Soviet market, with what should soon be 300 million consumers, the Kremlin still has visions of setting up joint ventures and gaining access to Western know-how free of charge (or certainly of ready cash).

Soviet officials even imagine they will be able to earn handsome foreign exchange profits on the arrangement by exporting high-grade products to other countries.

Hans-Joachim Deckert

(Mannheimer Morgen, 4 April 1987)

■ SOCIETY

Lawyers try to improve public image of being litigation-happy scoundrels

RHEINISCHE POST

Lawyers have a bad reputation. Few want to have anything to do with them.

The public regards them as thieves far too fond of getting into legal squabbles with other people's money. So do banks, trade unions and social welfare institutions, companies and tradesmen.

To try and polish this tawdry image, the West German law society has turned to the pollsters for assistance.

The lawyers and the Justice Ministry have asked Prognos in Basle and Infratest in Munich to conduct a study of what the public requires from lawyers. They are anxious to see justice done — to themselves.

There are 50,000 lawyers in this country. Every year 2,000 join the profession.

The survey covered 70 legal experts, 1,983 ordinary citizens and 500 veterans of dealing with the law from organisations and companies. What they had to say knocked the lawyers' image sideways.

Fifty-four per cent of those questioned expressed the view that they would prefer never, but never, to have anything to do with a lawyer.

Small businesses did not have a very high opinion of lawyers either, and gave the legal profession a wide berth.

Generally speaking doctors had a "horror" of lawyers and engineers and architects had an "aversion" to them. The view of these professional people was that dealings with lawyers did more harm than good.

Tenants are "helpessly stood up against the wall" when lawyers are brought in. Others complained that the legal way of thinking was quite foreign to them as was their habit of wanting to justify everything.

The lawyers job is to argue, to intrude into a dispute as a threat, or to see a case through the courts. This was usually not the right way to solve a problem.

Disagreements in personal relationships with partners, between friends, acquaintances and neighbours are best resolved without resorting to the law.

The view is generally held that lawyers do with their clients just what they like.

The two public opinion research organisations believe that the disturbing image of the legal profession is based on "subliminal anxiety" and rarely on direct experience.

Banks and commercial companies regard lawyers as "arrogant and blustering, rude and anonymous." Bankers and businessmen clients are bowled over by the intimidatory methods lawyers apply when sitting with them to go over problems.

Social organisations such as welfare institutions and trade unions take the view that lawyers just deal with their clients as if they were just a number.

Lawyers make their clients uneasy when clients visit them with the lawyer sitting in a comfortable chair on the other side of a huge desk with the client sitting humbly in front of him. This results in an atmosphere in which the client dare not ask what his or her legal position actually is.

It is also difficult to get an appointment with a lawyer, who never visits his client. Tax advisers who do visit their clients are, on the other hand, regarded with much greater favour.

Looking for a lawyer who is learned in a paricular aspect of the law — economic affairs, tenancy, family matters, tax, traffic or social welfare rights — is also something of a game of roulette.

A lack of specialisation among lawyers and the fact they they are forbidden to advertise is a disadvantage to the public seeking legal advice.

The greatest hindrance to calling on a lawyer, who sits in his office "like a spider at the centre of his web," is spiralling costs. The survey revealed that 75 per cent of those questioned were influenced by the question of costs.

Everyone believes that lawyers are too expensive. The legel eagle is regarded as "greedy for fees," who is delighted when there is a large amount in dispute so that he can fleece his client.

A spokesman for a building industry association said: "Lawyers are expensive and they don't do much. There is nothing to be gained by going to them."

Everyone who took part in the survey complained about excessive fees. At least the fee for an initial consultation with a lawyer should be laid down, people in the survey said.

Just like a general practioner a lawyer is expected to cover a vast range of legal matters for organisations and medium-sized companies — environmental protection and labour legislation, company statutes, social welfare rights, data information protection and company reorganisation.

To cover all this lawyers have to take to their heels, get out of their offices and take part in specialist meetings and conferences.

In the long-term the only way to improve the public image of lawyers in the view of experts and the law society is to have better-qualified lawyers and given them more specialised training. There should also be an alteration in the state's regulations governing lawyers.

In the short-term a change in the public attitude can only be achieved by lawyers themselves seeing things differently.

Munich lawyer Hasso Hübner, who initiated the survey, said: "We should not only be surgeons but also general practioners, who can in addition recommend preventive treatment."

Christina Freitag

(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, 23 March 1987)

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totype of the bloodthirsty Jews", would find the Catholic church's reticence difficult to understand.

He says that nothing less is expected from them than an unambiguous judgment about "the oldest and unfairest weapon in the arsenal of religious Jewish hate."

An ironic footnote confirmed by Fricke: when in 1972 an Israeli citizen wanted to reopen the case of Jesus before Israel's highest court, Judge Berenson rejected the petition, saying his court had no jurisdiction.

It was not a matter for Israeli courts. The applicant should apply to the courts of the successor nation of the Roman empire. That is, an Italian court.

Hanno Kühnert

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 3 April 1987)

Officer analyses recruits' handwriting

An army officer who is an expert on hand-writing psychology has been unofficially examining recruits' writing.

Lieutenant-Colonel Borwin Holsträter, 45, commanding officer of a tank battalion in Münster, has examined more than 700 recruits this way in three years. His findings have been 90 per cent correct.

Once he even picked a heroin addict. A spokesman at Corps headquarters in Münster confirmed that Colonel Holsträter was the only handwriting psychologist in the army.

The colonel said: "When recruits are drafted into the service they write a curriculum vitae for me. They do not know that I shall analyse their handwriting and in so doing help them."

Borwin Holsträter is concerned with helping those in his command. He examines them to see if they are suffering from depression or have anxieties, and whether they are brutal and aggressuive.

"More than once I have discovered young soldiers who suffer from melancholia," the colonel said. If people classified as melancholics were picked on too much, their suicidal tendencies could develop.

How can the commander help? He talks to the group leaders of the recruits concerned. He said that weak and anxious characters should not be dealt with so roughly as the others and they should be praised from time to time. Recruits Holsträter finds to be aggressive are put with various group leaders "so that they can handle them."

Borwin Holsträter began his handwriting examinations four years ago — more by accident than anything else. His wife had had to change homes eight times over the past 16 years because of her husband's postings.

The colonel said: "She wanted to do something that had nothing to do with the posting."

Wife Hannelore Holsträter, 38, enrolled for a correspondence course on handwriting psychology at a Celle school. Lt-Colonel Holsträter also took an interest. Last November he completed his training in handwriting psychology and is now a qualified handwriting psychologist.

During his studies Holsträter examined the handwriting of 700 of his recruits for up to 300 characteristics.

He spent a lot of time taking a closer look at 15 out of every 100 of the handwriting samples because they did not adhere to the normal. Ninety per cent of his diagnoses proved to be correct.

The recruits whose handwriting was examined knew nothing about the subsidiary activities of their commander nor were they informed about his examinations of their handwriting.

Is that permitted? Holsträter said: "I don't care a damn about regulations. I don't see any legal difficulties. The results are not placed on file."

But Borwin Holsträter, as battalion commander, also has to assess candidates for officer training. He uses his handwriting psychology knowledge here too. He admitted that he examined the handwriting of candidates being selected for officer courses.

Most soldiers decide in the first six months if they want to go on to become officers or not. It is possible, then, to assess the curricula vitae that the young men wrote on the first day they were in the Bundeswehr, the army.

What does the Defence Ministry in Bonn have to say about this? A spokesman told *Hamburger Abendblatt*: "The matter in Münster is a private initiative of the commander himself. The Bundeswehr has not trained him in handwriting psychology. There is no regulation, however, that prohibits him pursuing this hobby."

As regards the secret examinations of handwriting the spokesman said that the Ministery was amazed to hear of this.

In April Lt-Colonel is to be transferred, for the ninth time, to the army office in Cologne. It is his turn to serve there.

He will not have any opportunities to assess handwriting there. He said: "Unfortunately I shall not have anything to do with conscripts in my new job." *Stefan Anker*

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 11 March 1987)

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